

Mr Callaghan lays down Britain's lasting commitment to EEC

Mr Callaghan yesterday gave notice to the Labour Party's annual conference that the United Kingdom's now lies irrevocably in the European Economic Community and that arguments about withdrawal must be in a detailed letter to Mr Ronald Haywood, general

secretary of the party, copies of which the Foreign Office has sent to Western capitals, the Prime Minister said the Government must try to reform the EEC while retaining a large degree of national sovereignty. Withdrawal would cause an upheaval in relations with Europe and the United States.

Statement on European policy signed to end Labour party arguments on withdrawal

Mr Callaghan, who has a more Atlanticist than a Europeanist, wrote his letter to settle the question for good and all, and it will be regarded in European capitals as one of the most important foreign policy pronouncements that have ever come from a Labour government.

It settles, almost with finality, the United Kingdom's future role in the Community, and not many Conservatives would dispute its fundamental attitude or wording.

Withdrawal from the EEC, Mr Callaghan wrote, "would cause a profound upheaval in our relations with Europe, but also more widely and particularly in our relations with the United States".

He gave a warning that there could be serious consequences on the policies of important allies like West Germany, and a risk of increasing tensions in East-West relations if the Government committed itself to doubts about Community membership.

Withdrawal, he argued, might adversely affect the development of embryonic democracies in Portugal, Spain and Greece, which were applying for EEC membership, and the Lomé convention, and the Lomé developed world, as well as the settlement of political problems in southern Africa, where the Nine collectively have more influence than they would have, as separate nations.

Mr Callaghan continued: "So the best way forward for us is to define the essential elements of a distinctive policy that will meet the legitimate concerns and interests of the British people and will strengthen unity and democracy in Europe. In the words of the national executive committee document: 'We must avoid a purely negative posture'."

The Community, he said, is an organic and evolving body, and the Government must work to reform it, retaining a large degree of national sovereignty and using the veto effect of the unanimity rule in the Council of Ministers where United Kingdom and other national interests could be safeguarded.

Mr Callaghan has played his cards cleverly. He managed to bring the entire Cabinet into line at a full day's meeting on



Mr Callaghan with Mr Thomas McNelly, his political adviser, at the Labour National Executive Committee meeting in Brighton

in 40 years.

I do not think that this weight is given to this coincidence, when we measure the dissatisfaction felt in Britain about the effect of membership. But equally I am in no doubt that there are aspects of present Community policies which do not work in our interest, or may work counter to our concept of how Britain and Europe should develop.

"I suggest that we must avoid the political nationalism which would disregard the ideas and experience of other European democratic socialist parties, or would treat their experience as some inferior brand, not to be confused with the genuine British article."

Mr Callaghan said he was not party to attempts to make the EEC a "cage" for all our national life. It is certain that we would not carry conviction for a programme of reform among other members of the Community if

Apex refuses mass picket aid to strikers

By Robert Parler

Mr Roy Grantham, the general secretary of the Association of Professional Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex), the union involved in the Grunwick dispute, yesterday told the strikers, who are organizing new mass picketing, that neither he nor the TUC could support their decision.

At a meeting with the strike committee on the day after the committee decided without consulting Mr Grantham to go ahead on October 17 with daily mass picketing, Mr Grantham seemed to accept that such tactics were perhaps inevitable. During the meeting Mr Grantham, according to one person present, "read the letter to the strikers in the gentlest possible way".

He said, however, that Apex would have to dissociate itself from the renewed picketing. He would be meeting officers of the union next week, and there would be an executive meeting the week after, and it was most unlikely that support for picketing would result.

He also said the action might endanger the strikers' position, particularly in relation to getting support from sectors who the strikers are hoping will offer services.

When the strike committee called for a mass picket on August 8, Mr Grantham was able to get the committee to call the action off. That was because he still had cards to play and was able to assure the strikers that the dispute could be won in other ways.

Yesterday, however, he had little to offer, and he said he understood the feelings of frustration among the picketers which had led to their decision on further picketing.

The morale of the strikers is said to be very much higher than it has been since Grunwick rejected the recommendation of reinstatement which was possible by the Scarman court of inquiry.

Their efforts are being directed into mobilising support from all over the country for the new picket line, which is to start at Grunwick, Liverpool, west Scotland and Wales from the middle of next week.

One important method of recruiting support will be a 24-hour television relay made by professional television people belonging to The Newsworld Collective. The film tells what the strikers see as the Grunwick story.

The film is to be sent round the country and is hoped to be shown in many public houses. It will really support it is being shown in London tonight at 6.30 at the Odeon Cinema.

A rally is also to be held on October 17 in central London, which will be addressed by Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' leader, and by Jack Dromey, the secretary of the Great Britain Council, who has played a key role in advising the strikers.

Hijacks in France and Bangladesh

Air pirate captured as police storm Caravelle at Orly

From Ian Murray
Paris, Sept 30

French riot police stormed a hijacked Caravelle aircraft at Orly airport, Paris, just before 9 pm this evening. Two people were seriously wounded when the hijacker threw a grenade in the aircraft before the police reached him.

He was identified as Jacques Robert, aged 43, a known political fanatic who three years ago held a script and a technician hostage in the Radio Luxembourg studios in Paris in order to be allowed air time to express his views. He then made a short political speech in favour of "liberty" and against strikes.

For this incident he was sent to prison, from which he was released after 18 months. At the age of 19 he had been given a short jail sentence for killing his father.

He took over today's 11.30 am Air Inter flight from Paris to Lyons with 93 passengers and a seven crew members on board. Armed with a pistol and a hand grenade, he shot an air hostess in the arm when she tried to intervene and forced the pilot to return to Orly.

When the aircraft landed at Orly, the police allowed the injured hostess and six passengers, including a baby, to leave it. He then demanded to be allowed to play a 12-minute pre-recorded tape on France's two main commercial radio stations, Europe One and Radio Monte Carlo.

Once the Caravelle landed it was surrounded by a ring of police cars and airport fire engines. M. Jean Pétier, prefect of the Val de Marne department, and the area's police chief set up an operational headquarters in the control tower and began negotiations with the hijacker, who usually relayed his messages through the aircraft's captain.

One message gave an initial deadline of 2 pm, when he intended to shoot a passenger if his demand for radio air time was not met.

The deadline passed without incident as the negotiators tried to find out what the man wanted to say on the radio and explained that mounting a broadcast from the aircraft in the way the hijacker wanted was technically extremely difficult.

At 3 pm the hijacker said that as soon as his message was broadcast he would release 50 of his hostages before taking off with the others for an unknown destination, he gave no clue as to whether he realized that one of the passengers was the Gaullist Party deputy for the Haute Loire, M. Lucien Neuwirth.

The captain had kept the aircraft's twin jets running in order to ventilate the cabin, but at about 4 pm he was forced to switch them off as he was running out of fuel. The hijacker demanded that the aircraft be refuelled for his getaway.

He continued to warn the negotiators that he was quite prepared to blow up the aircraft if any attempt was made to mount any operation to seize it. Speaking directly to the control tower in what police described as "a marked Parisian accent" he said that he had time to shoot at least 30 passengers before the police could do anything.

The police assault on the aircraft had been very carefully prepared.

Among those injured was a former Government Minister, M. Philippe Misland, who received minor injuries to the arm and a few cuts on the face.

Dacca gunmen told all terms cannot be met

Dacca, Saturday morning.—A night of suspense began here for 142 British hostages when the Japanese Red Army guerrillas who hijacked them on Wednesday, learnt last night that their ransom demands could not be met in every detail.

Japanese Government negotiators had to tell them that although they would be paid the \$6m (£3.5m) they had demanded, only six of the nine prisoners they wanted released from the Japanese Red Army. Moreover, the aircraft prisoners did not leave Tokyo until dawn this morning when the terrorists' latest deadline was expiring. It would take at least eight hours to reach Dacca by the early afternoon (about 6 am GMT).

Air Vice-Marshal Abdul Ghafur Mahmud, the Bangladesh officer in charge of the negotiations between control tower and the hijacked DC8, said that he had taken two hours and 30 minutes, putting across the details of substance of his message, since he had not wanted "no" for an answer. He had told the gunmen to "think it over" and let him know the method of exchange of prisoners and money for the hostages.

The terrorists have freed nine of an original 151 hostages and have said that Indians, Pakistanis and others and children will be released when the flight comes in from Tokyo with their ransom. Other hostages would be set free at various points on a subsequent route from Dacca to an unnamed destination.

Earlier today, word out of the airport, closely guarded by 300 armed police and troops was that the hijackers were getting restless. But they did allow one hostage, the American businessman, Mr Walter Karabian, to speak to the control tower, with a message for President Carter.

We believe the interests of justice will be served if the United States can persuade the Government of Japan to give serious consideration to the demands of the Red Army."

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Soviet rd on

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Fighting at Liberal conference

From Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

The carefully nurtured Liberal image of cooperation and conciliation took a nasty knock at the annual assembly at Brighton yesterday as angry young delegates fought with stewards after refusing to accept the verdict of the conference, that standing orders should not be suspended to allow a debate on unemployment.

Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, looked dismayed as he watched from the platform as contingents of Young Liberals halted proceedings.

At one moment it seemed that the conference might collapse in total uproar as the chairman, Councillor Ann Moor, failed to restore order amid a barrage of shouts, yells, points of order and attempted speeches from all points of the compass.

Officials scurried about in an attempt to rescue whatever remained of the party's reputation for law and order.

As Mr John Pardoe, MP for Cornwall, tried to begin his speech opening the next

Soviet fishermen banned from EEC waters

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Sept 30

From midnight tonight, any Soviet fishing vessels in EEC waters will be operating illegally.

The Nine, meeting at ambassador level in Brussels, decided today not to renew licences for the small number of Soviet trawlers allowed into the Community's North Sea fishing grounds.

The decision was made after diplomatic contacts with Moscow brought no satisfactory explanation of the Soviet Union's sudden notice last week that it intends to restrict Community fishermen in the Barents Sea to what is considered in Brussels to be a rather small catch of about 1,800 tons over the next two months.

According to fisheries experts at the European Commission, there is only a handful of Russian vessels left in the North Sea and these appear to be withdrawing in anticipation of the EEC regulatory ban. An official said: "We hope there will be no confrontation."

Before the Soviet ultimatum, the Nine had planned to extend Soviet fishing rights in the North Sea to the end of November, during which period they would have been allowed to catch about 25,000 tons of fish.

The Russians will still be able to catch a small quantity of fish in the Barents Sea, in an area of Community waters covered by the convention establishing the International Commission for the North-west Atlantic Fisheries. This cannot be modified unilaterally by the EEC.

Last year British fishermen caught 30,000 to 35,000 tons of cod and haddock in the Barents Sea, a valuable catch because of Britain's exclusion from Icelandic and other waters.

Under EEC licensing, the Russians have been restricted this year to a catch of about 150,000 tons, compared with a catch estimated last year at as much as 500,000 tons. But the bulk of the Soviet catch is of low-value fish, much of it for fishmeal.

Controls on meetings considered

Although no fundamental change in the Public Order Act, 1936, is envisaged, the Government is considering powers to control public meetings and to ban particular marches rather than all marches, Mr Rees, Home Secretary, indicated. Public order was a matter for the police, he said.

Pledge by the Pope

The Pope, who was 80 this week, ended speculation that he plans to retire soon with a pledge to 206 Roman Catholic bishops to continue serving the church. The bishops, from 95 countries, are attending the fourth International Synod in Rome.

Ford 124 pc offer is rejected by union

A pay offer to Ford workers of between 9 and 12 1/2 per cent was rejected. Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that failure to improve the offer could lead to serious confrontation.

Cars curb warning to Japanese

Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, issued a warning that the Government was prepared to impose import controls on Japanese cars if their share of the market rose significantly above the present 10 per cent.

Baby bayoneted

A six-month-old girl has been bayoneted to death in a farm in Rhodesia, the Government announced in Salisbury. Her parents found her dead on their verandah.

Foreign cash flows in

The continued surge of foreign money into Britain in September is expected to show up in another big jump in the nation's official reserves. The month's total could be as much as \$1,500m up on the August figure.

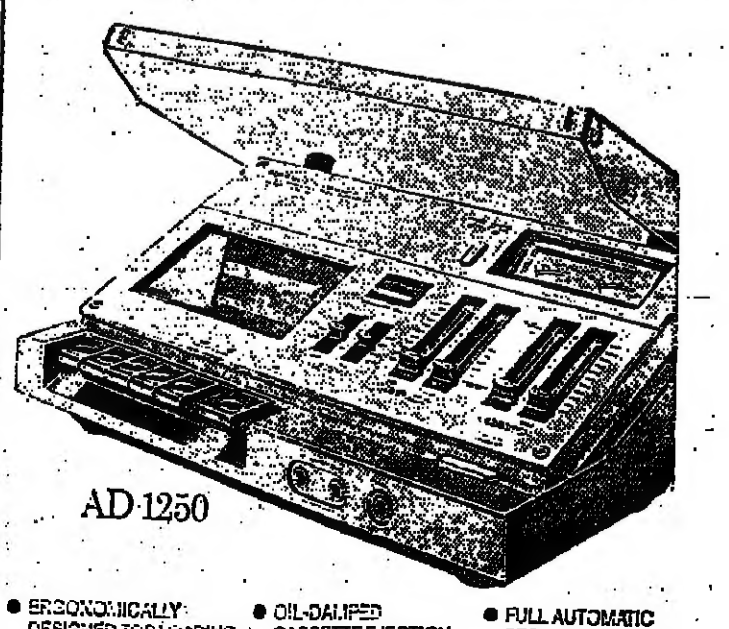
Bukharin still 'guilty'

In an act reflecting continued hostility to political deviation, the Soviet Communist Party has refused to exonerate Nikolai Bukharin, a main opponent of Stalin's executed in 1938. His widow had made the request.

Research merger

Plans are complete for a merger of Political and Economic Planning (PEP) and the Centre for Studies in Social Policy. The new organization would have a staff of 30 researchers and a budget of £500,000.

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HOME NEWS

Government looking at powers to control meetings

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government has ruled out any fundamental change to the basis of the Public Order Act, 1936, but would like to make it less of a blunt instrument.

Mr. Rees, Home Secretary, said last night: "Let us keep our public order legislation firmly rooted in public order considerations which are basically a matter of judgment for the police."

A big step would be taken if, as some urged, the onus were put on the Home Secretary to decide on grounds other than public order whether a particular march should be banned. "We would be moving down the road which leads to the proscription of political parties," he did not want that.

However, he is examining the case for powers to control meetings, as well as marches. The significance of such a change would be its direct effect on freedom of speech and not simply on freedom to demonstrate.

Mr. Rees hopes to be able to say by Christmas if present legislation will suffice or, if not, that he will introduce new measures shortly.

A question he is considering in consultation with police and others is the need for power to ban particular marches. Letters to *The Times* have asked that the Salvation Army should be excluded from the ban imposed in Tameside. Mr. David Bubb, general secretary of the Church Pastoral Aid Society, wrote: "If a curb on political processions in Tameside must stand let it be expressly declared, and it would cause best of all from the Home Secretary, that the banners and slogans of the Salvation Army are still welcome in every street in the land."

Open University to move into continuing education

By Diane Goddard
Education Correspondent

The Senate of the Open University has unanimously agreed to move into further and continuing education, along lines proposed by the Venables report.

Sir Walter Parry, vice-chancellor of the university and chairman of the senate, said yesterday that the decision was one of the most significant in the university's history. It would enable the university to launch fully into its second phase as laid down in its 1969 charter, "to promote the educational well-being of the community generally."

At present the university had about 6,000 students doing "post-experience" (non-degree) courses, compared with nearly 60,000 doing undergraduate courses. He expected that in a couple of decades the continuing education sector would be as big as the undergraduate sector was now.

Initial reactions to the Venables report, published last December, had shown that there had been considerable doubt and even hostility to its proposals among some people inside the university who had been recruited primarily to develop an undergraduate programme and who did not feel that the

programme was finished yet, he said.

The senate, which regulates academic policy for the university, passed 15 resolutions at a meeting last Tuesday on the key recommendations of the Venables report on continuing education, chaired by Sir Peter Venables, relating to the future role of the Open University.

All but one of the resolutions were ratified unanimously. Three people out of about 200 senate members voted against the first and crucial resolution, which stated that "the university should adopt in principle a commitment to a programme of continuing education... on the understanding that this will not detract from present and planned undergraduate provision."

Sir Walter emphasized yesterday that the theme of the Venables report was collaboration. The OU does not want to, and could not, go it alone or make a takeover bid to run adult education for the country," he said. Its courses would be complementary to, not in competition with, existing provision.

The university is to set aside £20,000 next year to inaugurate the first stages of administrative development, including the establishment of a Centre for Continuing Education to develop courses and materials.

Threat by dentists to stop NHS work

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

Dental treatment under the National Health Service may stop soon after a decision yesterday by leaders of the 13,500 general dental practitioners.

The British Dental Association decided to drop its opposition to selective acceptance of NHS patients, and further decided not to participate in fee negotiations with the Department of Health until the scales are raised.

The General Dental Services Committee will meet again in November to consider a programme of sanctions.

Mr. Ralph Follwell, chairman of the committee, said yesterday: "I hope our actions will show David Ennals (Secretary of State for Social Services) that we have had enough and that unless some sense is restored to the dental pay system he will quickly find himself without a NHS dental service."

Discussions with Mr. Ennals have failed to resolve the dispute.

Steady price rise but no boom in houses expected

By Our Estates Correspondent

No dramatic rise in house prices is expected, provided the Government and building societies manage to control the money supply, according to a review of the market by the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers.

PEP and social policy centre to merge

By Peter Hennessy

The merger of two leading British policy institutes has become assured in the last few days. The Policy and Economic Planning (PEP) and the Centre for Studies in Social Policy will pool resources, staff and research programmes within a few months, once the formalities of the merger have been completed by their governing bodies.

A meeting of the Rowntree Trust, the principal benefactor of the centre, in London this week welcomed the move and agreed to continue financial support. Rowntree furnishes about four-fifths of the centre's annual budget of £200,000.

The two institutes have begun a joint examination of future search. A search for premises is also under way. Neither the centre's base in Holborn nor PEP's headquarters in Belgrave is large enough for the merged teams.

Together they will have a staff of about thirty researchers and a budget of £300,000. The new body will equal in size London's other leading centres for policy studies, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

The stimulus for the merger arose from the idea of a "British Brookings" modelled on the policy institute in Washington, which was put forward by Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, director of the London School of Economics. All four London centres feared that, if established, it would siphon funds and poach talent from their preserves.

Although Professor Dahrendorf's idea came to nothing, because of the Ford Foundation's reluctance to provide funds in the absence of British-based backers, the institutions investigated several possibilities.

Amalgamation of the two smaller institutes was deemed the most natural development. PEP and the centre hope to attract some money from the Social Science Research Council as aspects of the new ventures they plan fall within research outlined by the council as desirable at its July meeting. Those were education, housing, the relationship between economic and social policies and elements of government.

The centre and PEP have two particular enterprises in mind, one in education, and a study of contemporary Western society and Britain's place in it.

Ulster 'may be used for bureaucratic experiments'

By Our Northern Correspondent

Ulster may be becoming a testing ground for bureaucratic experiments, Mr. Airey Neave, Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, suggested yesterday at Nelson and Colne College, Lancashire.

While Britain had not introduced laws for the wearing of car seat belts to be made compulsory, the law was to be introduced in Northern Ireland. He added: "Direct rule from Westminster gives plenty of opportunities for ministers and officials to increase their stranglehold. There is more than a whiff of the proconsular in Mr. Mason's latest statements."

He would ask Northern Ireland's three political parties for their reactions to "the Government's present negative attitude" when he visited the province next week.

"What Northern Ireland needs now," Mr. Neave said, "is not Napoleonic posturing or socialist experimentation; but patient and resourceful negotiating."

Ford workers reject pay offer of up to 12½ per cent

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The pay battle began in earnest yesterday as Ford manual workers and Britain's merchant navy officers threatened confrontation unless they get improved offers.

Ford, whose deal for 57,000 manual workers will be a national pace-setter for other industries, yielded slightly under intense pressure from the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU).

But an improved offer giving between 9 and 12½ per cent was rejected by union negotiators in lengthy talks. Mr. Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the TGWU, said that the offer "could lead to serious confrontation."

In the other main pay development yesterday, the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association decided on a worldwide policy of industrial action over a new pay deal.

Mr. Evans said that if there was a strike, 2,000 British ships would be stopped, with a further 2,000 foreign-flag ships dispatched by British employers.

The union has rejected a phase two deal which would have given 14 a week from June 1. It has made clear that only if ways are found through productivity or bonus schemes to give substantial rises will it accept a phase two increase.

The union's national council yesterday unanimously approved a resolution recommending a ballot among foreign-going and home trade officers, but excluding shipmasters, whose contracts carry certain legal commitments.

The ballot will begin in about three weeks and a result is expected early in January. If the decision favours it, industrial action may begin a few weeks later.

Mr. Evans said: "If it is decided to take action I imagine that ships will fairly rapidly come to a halt. They will be able to go to the next port of call and everything that is required will be on hand, such as loading and unloading, repairs and maintenance, but they will not go out to sea."

Cricket administrators 'dishonest' Mr Packer says

By John Hennessy
Sports Editor

Mr. Kerry Packer, the Australian promoter, was highly critical of cricket administrators in the High Court yesterday when he gave evidence in two actions brought by him and three players against the International Cricket Conference (ICC) and the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) before Mr. Justice Slade. They are seeking to remove a ban on the players from taking part in Test and county cricket.

Much of the evidence was concerned with negotiations over television. Mr. Packer was referred to a statement on behalf of the TCCB to the effect that once he had got television rights he would pay off his recruits. That statement, he said, was beyond his refutation. There was no loophole, he committed ourselves and the players committed themselves, he said.

When questioned by Mr. Robert Alexander, Q.C., his counsel about a meeting called at Lord's to find a compromise, he said the meeting was aware that I did not trust the Australian Cricket Board, and I do not trust them.

He believed that the great television money rights in Australia "was a deliberate attempt by the ICC to break down the negotiations."

Pledge by minister over transport for disabled

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

An absolute guarantee that he would not let disabled people stranded on the matter of invalid vehicles was given yesterday by Mr. Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services.

He said: "No one in a tribe is going to be left immobile, the country will need a vehicle in some form or other be able to get a vehicle."

Speaking at Solihull, where a representative 70 of the country's 20,000 invalid car owners had demonstrated their fears about future immobilising, he said: "I am not indicating that the country will be able to get a vehicle."

After that, when they run out, they will in some or other be able to get a vehicle. He would not say what vehicle some people needed special, converted, or production vehicles.

He declined to discuss mobility for the newly disabled, and said he would make a statement later.

NUJ applauds Labour ban on journalists

The National Union of Journalists' national executive yesterday congratulated NUJ members to the Labour Party press office for banning two Westminster Press journalists from reporting next week's Labour Party Conference in Brighton.

Earlier the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party put off a decision on whether to endorse the ban, which was imposed by Mr. Percy Clark, the party's chief press officer, until the outcome of the NUJ's meeting was known.

The journalists, both political correspondents and members of the NUJ, are working normally while other reporters in the same office are on strike in connection with a closed shop dispute. They will be told tomorrow of the Labour NEC's decision.

Correction

The exhibition of works of art by past and present members of the Royal Family, mentioned yesterday, opens to the public tomorrow, not today.

Strike over pay may delay London funerals

By a Staff Reporter

Delays to funerals in London are expected as funeral workers stop work from Monday in pursuit of a pay claim after a strike vote by London branch delegates of the National Union of Funeral Service Operators.

About two-thirds of the 1,000 funeral workers in London are members. If the strike call is obeyed they are likely to picket non-union undertakers and cemeteries. It will be the first strike in the union's 60-year history.

The London Association of Funeral Directors, which represents about 170 companies, is seriously concerned that many funerals may have to be cancelled and that some cremations may also be stopped.

The union also warned that the bodies of people who die at home may not be collected and that hospital mortuaries will have to stay storing bodies.

Police chief's retirement plea is refused

By Our Education Correspondent

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Questions on racial orig included in survey

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Questions about racial and ethnic origins are being asked in a national housing survey being done for the Department of the Environment by a consortium of three market research organisations.

The subject arouses strong feelings, although various relations experts have said that unless the progress of non-white people is monitored authorities cannot see whether policies are working fairly.

The survey removes a difficulty for those conducting interviews. As usual, code numbers and standard ethnic groups, there is one marked "refused". And the instructions say that people questioned can refer simply to one of 12 code numbers if they do not wish to refer to the appropriate group.

Weather forecast and recordings

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Speaking at Solihull, where a representative 70 of the country's 20,000 invalid car owners had demonstrated their fears about future immobilising, he said: "I am not indicating that the country will be able to get a vehicle."

After that, when they run out, they will in some or other be able to get a vehicle. He would not say what vehicle some people needed special, converted, or production vehicles.

He declined to discuss mobility for the newly disabled, and said he would make a statement later.

Questions on racial orig included in survey

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Questions about racial and ethnic origins are being asked in a national housing survey being done for the Department of the Environment by a consortium of three market research organisations.

The subject arouses strong feelings, although various relations experts have said that unless the progress of non-white people is monitored authorities cannot see whether policies are working fairly.

The survey removes a difficulty for those conducting interviews. As usual, code numbers and standard ethnic groups, there is one marked "refused". And the instructions say that people questioned can refer simply to one of 12 code numbers if they do not wish to refer to the appropriate group.

Weather forecast and recordings

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WEST EUROPE

Communists hold more liberal views in France

From Ian Murray
Paris, Sept 30
The French Communist Party has changed profoundly since the days of Stalin, according to 54 per cent of its members. This is shown in a Louis Harris opinion poll published in the socialist newspaper *Le Matin*. A further 25 per cent agree at least that it has begun to change.

This change is clearly for the better, the minds of most party members as 65 per cent say they are very concerned about the existence of political prisoners in the Soviet Union and 46 per cent think that the Soviet regime represents a setback for the cause of liberty. A further 31 per cent refused to voice any opinion on this point.

Whether or not the party leadership shares this liberal attitude is less clear. Certainly many commentators here believe that the French party has been intent on breaking up the Union of the Left this summer on direct orders from Moscow. Their continuing public battle with the Socialist Party certainly shows no signs of ending.

The Communist Party newspaper *L'Humanité* today renewed the attack on M. Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, for his rejection of Communist divorce ideas.

Another article accuses the Socialists of having deceived their mind about nationalization since the drafting of the common programme in 1972. It appeals to members to help themselves by helping the party in presidential elections.

The Paris federation of the party is now organizing a fortnight's campaign to support the leadership's stand against the Socialists.

Victor M. Mitterrand away in West Germany, the Socialists have been relatively quiet, but his press conference on Wednesday showed that he really intended to stand firm.

In a television interview yesterday he said he was optimistic that the left would overcome its difficulties and that the common programme must not make promises it could not keep, but that everything had to be done to make sure the Union of the Left succeeded.

The Left Radicals, the third party in the troubled union, is still determined to help the cause of the left, despite the fact that its tough stand against the Communists on nationalization may have precipitated the breakdown of talks called to update the common programme.

An executive meeting yesterday affirmed that the party would continue its fight "for the forces of the workers and youth".

M. Robert Fabre, the Radical leader, rejected out of hand the criticism by M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, for the party's support of the Gaullists in next year's elections.

M. Chirac, despite his personal success at the Gaullist conference in Menton this week, must be viewing the campaign with increasing concern. The Gaullist position as the strongest party in the national Assembly is clearly threatened by the Socialists, which is why he just will not accept that M. Barre, the Prime Minister, is right in saying the crisis of the left is a profound one.

For all that his hour-long speech at the end of the conference last night was rapturously received and ended with him standing tall, hands raised above his head to give General de Gaulle's famous double victory sign, while the audience sang the "Marseillaise".

Baader-Meinhof lawyer held by Paris police
From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Sept 30
The defence lawyer in the Baader-Meinhof trials, Herr Klaus Croissant, was arrested last night by French police. It has been sought under an international warrant issued soon after he crossed into France from West Germany on July 12.

Herr Croissant, who is accused of actively supporting the terrorist group, was arrested in small flat in Paris. Since entering France he has been in hiding, although he gave one admission interview to deny that he was involved in organising the abduction of Herr Hannes-Martin Schleyer, head of the West German employers' organization.

West Germany has already opted for his extradition, while Herr Croissant has asked to stay in France.



The Pope says Mass, attended by 206 bishops in the Sistine Chapel.

Pope ends retirement speculation with pledge before world synod

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Sept 30
The Pope tonight removed whatever doubts remained about his future intentions in a clear statement to the International Synod of Roman Catholic Bishops that he was determined to continue to lead the church.

He was replying to good wishes for his eightieth birthday. Officially, any idea that he might resign has been consistently denied at the Vatican. Those close to the Pope, however, have declared that he might decide to retire if he felt that his faculties were impaired by old age.

It was unthinkable, however, that he would have chosen the occasion of his birthday to retire, because the precedent would have been too binding on his successors.

He has now confirmed these views in a solemn manner possible with his renewed expression of dedication.

The sheer numbers involved are formidable: about 226 million nominal Catholics throughout the world are

countries in Rome for the international synod. This is the fourth general assembly of the synod since its institution in 1965 and will most likely prove the most important in the series.

The synod is a largely consultative assembly and was designed to meet demands for a greater participation of Catholic bishops throughout the world in the government of the church.

Despite its essentially consultative character, the synod is thought likely this time to make the feelings of the bishops more strongly felt than in the past. One reason is the main theme chosen for discussion, which is both broad and delicate: it is "Catholicism in our time, with particular regard to children and young people".

The idea of Christian education as part of the growth of the faith is ancient but can hardly have been faced on many occasions in more difficult circumstances than the present. The sheer numbers involved are formidable: about 226 million nominal Catholics throughout the world are

children or young people. The bishops will also have to deal with such problems as freedom of teaching and the proper approach to a pluralist society.

Of the 206 bishops present, 143 have been elected by national episcopal conferences, 13 by the oriental patriarchates and 10 by religious orders. The rest attend by right of office: they hold or are nominated by the Pope. More than a third—95—come from the Third World and the 49 cardinals present make up about a third of the Sacred College, the body which will elect the next Pope.

The fact that the Pope has just celebrated his eightieth birthday, and that the synod will be concerned with subjects of profound concern to the church as a whole, suggests clearly enough that it may well have much influence on the church's future approach to its problems.

It is the fourth in the series of general assemblies and the fifth synod, meeting if one first synod, which includes the extraordinary session called in 1960

Catalans not eager for Cabinet seat

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Sept 30
Attempts by Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, to bring the Catalan go into his Government now that the Catalan autonomous government is to be restored, have so far met with little success.

With the restoration of the Catalan Generalitat, suppressed by Franco during the civil war, Señor Suárez would like a Catalan to replace Señor Ignacio Coma, who weakened the Government by resigning on Tuesday as Minister for the Corpes (Parliament).

A formal offer has been made to Señor Miguel Roca Junyent, a member of the centre-left coalition Democratic Party for Catalonia, which won 11 Cortes seats in the last general election. With these members supporting him, Señor Suárez would just manage to obtain a majority in the Congress, the Lower House of the Cortes. Señor Roca's Democratic Convergence Party is said to oppose the offer, but there has been no official statement.

Catalan politicians reacted very favourably today to the restoration of the Generalitat, while the Catalan people took the news most calmly. They are reserving their enthusiasm for the return in October of Señor Josep Terradellas, the Generalitat President in exile.

Miles wins again
Tilburg, Holland, Sept 30—Tony Miles, of Britain, defeated Svetoslav Gligoric, of Yugoslavia, in the sixth round of the Interpolis chess tournament here. He is joint leader

Unesco blames America for financial difficulties

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Sept 30
Delay by the United States in paying its contribution to Unesco is the prime reason for the world cultural organization's present financial difficulties, Mr Amadou-Mahtar Mbow, Unesco's director-general, today appealed to all member nations to "pay their 1977 contributions promptly".

The United States, the largest contributor to the organization, withheld its 1975 payments until last June.

It did so in a gesture of protest after a series of Unesco resolutions were passed in November, 1974, imposing sanctions against Israel and giving aid to Palestinian liberation movements.

This had meant that the organization had been forced to seek an interest-free loan of \$10m, which had to be repaid by the beginning of next year.

Unesco's executive council has just finished studying Mr Mbow's report of his first two years in office. It says the period has been characterized by a move from cooperation to concord.

Introducing his report, Mr Mbow said that the principle of non-interference by member states in the work of the secretariat had to be adhered to. There has been one incident in which a member state had obliged its representative on the secretariat to stop working for the organization.

M. Michel van Uffel, of Belgium, called for a draft resolution to give the director-general authority over his staff.

Belgians seek compromise formula on EEC drivers
From Michael Horsley
Brussels, Sept 30
There is strong opposition to the regulation—technically in force in the rest of the EEC, but not always observed in practice—about the British bus and lorry industries.

Mr Jos Chabert, the Belgian Transport Minister, was said to have had a "constructive dialogue" with Mr Rodgers today. The British want a safeguard period during which they would be able to suspend the application of the regulation in certain well defined conditions. While other EEC states are prepared to consider this, the French are adamantly opposed.

Mr Chabert promised to draft a modified version of the regulation, designed to meet the concerns of all parties.

Rome talks on newspaper sale report
From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, Sept 30
Rumours of changes in ownership of the Milan *Corriere della Sera*, Italy's best known newspaper, brought the announcement here today that the proprietor, Signor Angelo Rizzoli, had been summoned to Rome for a meeting next week with the Under-Secretary concerned with press affairs.

There have been frequent reports recently that West German financiers and an American multinational company are interested in the newspaper.

The Rizzoli family, in a statement published today, denied that negotiations for a sale were in hand and that they wished to change editorial policy.

OVERSEAS

PLO rejects Carter appeal to acknowledge Israel's right to exist and demands US recognition

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, Sept 30

The Palestine Liberation Organization, which is fast becoming experienced in its reactions to less than specific proposals from the United States for a Middle East peace, today rejected President Carter's suggestion that it should recognize Israel's right to exist.

The PLO could, he said, declare unilaterally that it had a "further interest" in the Palestinians' future outside the terms of the resolution.

Commenting on Mr Carter's reference to mayors and local West Bank leaders who might, as PLO sympathizers, attend the Geneva talks, Mr Labidi said: "The Palestinian people have already made their choice through municipal elections in Israel-occupied Palestinian territories and through numerous demonstrations in these regions, that our chairman, Yasser Arafat, is the leader of the whole Palestinian nation."

His reference to representatives of the West Bank, such as the mayors, is an attempt to divide the Palestinian people. Mayors represent only their cities or towns—not all of the people."

What really struck the PLO was Carter's comment that he did not regard its members

as "the exclusive representatives of the Palestinians".

The Arab nations have agreed formally that the PLO comprises the "sole representative" of the Palestinians and neither Mr Arafat nor his colleagues are likely to give any one an excuse to claim anything different.

Beirut, Sept 30—Christian rightist forces today took advantage of the fifth day of calm in south Lebanon to forcibly a key hill.

The rightists, who have been heavily supported by Israeli "used bulldozers to strengthen their positions on Cherk hill. It commands the main road between the Palestinian-Lebanese border towns of Ebel and Safi and Khirbat, one of the most important leftist strongholds in the southeast.

Rightist leaders continued to be sceptical about the chances of the ceasefire holding, on a new basis. It is a total withdrawal of Palestinian forces in the south. Under the ceasefire accord the PLO have agreed to remove all but a token force of 250 of the 5,000 Palestinians in the border region—UPI.

Kamikaze slaughter fear in Dacca

Continued from page 1

he said over the intercom. He said he was speaking after a discussion of the Red Army's objectives among the eight Americans in the hot, sweaty cabin—Rouner.

Peter Hazelhurst writes from Tokyo: A Japan Air Lines long-range DC-8 jet aircraft was expected to leave Tokyo soon after dawn this morning, to carry the six released prisoners and \$6m in ransom money to Dacca airport.

The prisoners are four members of the Japanese Red Army, detained on charges of political violence, and two common criminals convicted on charges of murder.

The hijackers in Dacca originally demanded the release of nine prisoners but three left-wing members of the Red Army refused to travel to Bangladesh.

Turning down an offer of freedom yesterday, an alleged terrorist, Toshio Omura, told a judge in Tokyo that he is prepared to stand trial and fight

for his freedom in court. Another terrorist, who is serving a 30-month sentence for hurling a petrol bomb at Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko in 1975, declared that he would remain in Japan to fight for the liberation of Okinawa Island.

One cause of the delayed take-off by the ransom aircraft was the discovery that Japanese banks could not provide \$6m in 5,000 notes as demanded by the terrorists. \$2m was eventually scraped together in Tokyo but the remaining \$4m had to be flown from New York by Japan Air Lines late on Friday afternoon.

The sudden drain of Japan's reserves of small notes is expected to deprive overseas travellers of ready cash for the next few days.

In addition, the flight was delayed until this morning because Japanese pilots, unfamiliar with the flight path into Dacca, were reluctant to land at Bangladesh's ill-equipped airport at night.

Explaining the official atti-

tude, a senior police officer said: "The West might think that we have no guts, but we know the minds of our own people. They are emotional and we know they mean business. It was a suicide mission. The whole future of the Red Army depends on the success or failure of this mission. If they fail, they will use the old tactics of the kamikaze pilots—destroy themselves and the passengers. We cannot risk it."

According to Mr Sumoto, the chief Cabinet secretary, a team of senior Japanese officials, who will volunteer to replace the passengers as hostages, are being dispatched to Dacca on the ransom flight, with these instructions: to placate the terrorists by displaying the released prisoners and the ransom money at Dacca airport, to secure the release of as many hostages as possible, and to persuade the hijackers to drop their demands for the release of the two common criminals.

It is therefore not surprising that the Lebanese are anxious to strike as soon as possible at this more ambitious drugs production. The Government officials, who confirmed the details of the *As Saif* report, said that the destruction of the opium fields would be a "shortly".

Whose national supply will presumably continue uninterrupted, take a more cynical view. They say the Government's determination to see its put into practice.

Ethiopian union official dies after shooting

Addis Ababa, Sept. 30—Unidentified terrorists have shot Mr Temessen Madebo, general of the All-Ethiopia Trade Union (AETU). Ethiopia radio reported today.

It said that Mr Madebo died in hospital after being shot outside his home yesterday.

He was the thirteenth official reported victim of political violence this month. His predecessor as AETU secretary-general was also killed—Agence France-Presse.

Guerrillas 'no longer threat to Argentine security'

From Our Correspondent
Buenos Aires, Sept 30
Argentina's left-wing guerrillas have been killed or captured by the armed forces, according to General Roberto Viola, Chief of the Army General Staff.

He told a large group of industrialists and businessmen last night that most of the estimated 1,200 guerrillas left operating were in the Buenos Aires region. He did not say whether the guerrilla losses had been suffered only since the

military takeover in March, 1976.

General Viola said that while national security, businessmen could sabotage the entire military success by taking excessive profits, speculating and distorting the market economy.

This would open the door to labour discontent on which the guerrillas could feed, he said, echoing recent statements by military officers saying that the guerrillas were concentrating on winning adherents among industrial workers.

Vietnam returns remains of 22 American soldiers

Hanoi, Sept. 30—The time had come for Vietnam and the United States to "normalize the situation and settle unresolved questions", a Vietnamese official said today as he handed over the remains of 22 Americans killed during the Vietnam War.

In a ceremony at Hanoi's Gia Lam airport, the representative of the Vietnamese commission on Americans missing in action, Mr Vu Hoang presented 22 small metal caskets to an American delegation headed by two State Department officials, Mr Frank Stever and Mr Frederick Brown.

Mr Stever handed over to the Vietnamese an identical casket containing the remains of a Vietnamese previously returned to the United States by mistake. In a brief statement he acknowledged the difficulties the Vietnamese authorities must have encountered in their research on the missing Americans. Both sides appeared anxious to prove their good will, leading observers to speculate that negotiations would soon resume on the question of diplomatic relations between Hanoi and Washington.

Talks in Paris broke off in June after differences which still seem far from being resolved. The United States refused to be bound by a letter written by former President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1969, the Vietnamese Prime Minister promising over \$5,000,000 (£1,880,000) to help "heal the wounds of war" plus another \$1,000,000 in miscellaneous aid.

Observers have discerned some optimistic elements in recent developments beginning with the recent admission of Vietnam to the United Nations, which the United States withheld its veto. Despite the still rigid American economic embargo on Vietnam, the United States Government earlier this year authorized the shipment of \$400,000 worth of rice to Vietnam.

The Americans did not oppose a development loan of \$10m to Vietnam from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees—Agence France-Presse.

Costa Rica now supporting independence for Belize

By Peter Bradford
President Daniel Oduber of Costa Rica made a clear statement in London yesterday in favour of the independence of Belize. He said that he regarded Belize as a "Latin American" country, even though it was not yet independent, and that it should become independent after negotiations between Britain, Guatemala and Belize.

President Oduber's statement was significant because in the past Costa Rica has voted with Guatemala on resolutions dealing with Belize at the United Nations. Guatemala believes that Belize is rightly part of Central American solidarity on this issue.

Panama, however, has already broken with Guatemala on the matter, and in August there was a meeting in Bogotá at which six countries—Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama and Jamaica—agreed on a declaration in favour of an independent Belize.

President Oduber said yesterday that he wanted to see Belize develop peacefully into a new independent state which

Troops told to destroy opium fields at Baalbek

From Our Own Correspondent
Beirut, Sept 30

A senior Lebanese Government official said today that Syrian troops of the Arab League peacekeeping force in the country had been ordered to destroy the opium fields around the ancient Lebanese city of Baalbek.

The fields—whose existence was reported in *The Times* earlier this month—were planted over an area of more than 170 acres between Baalbek and Hermal, and were grown this year as an experiment by hashish farmers anxious to cash in on Turkey's opium production.

There are, on the other hand, no signs that the Lebanese authorities are preparing to destroy the hashish fields which stretch for miles across the Bekaa valley nor break up the Mafia-like activities of the families which own the land. The hashish, which this year will yield an estimated crop of 100,000 tons, is already being harvested in this region.

Humble though the efforts of the Lebanese may seem, however, the destruction of the opium fields would be the first occasion in recent history on which the authorities have made a serious attempt to stem the country's drug trafficking at source. In the early 1970s the Lebanese destroyed some hashish crops in the Bekaa but they recovered only a small percentage of the vast yield.

According to the Beirut daily newspaper *As Saif* today, the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture has submitted a report to the Council of Ministers proposing that the fields be destroyed. The opium fields are mainly Syrian peacekeeping army.

The ministry report, according to the paper, says the fields are planted over about 175 acres and that some of the plantations are less than three acres in size. American narcotics agents, however, believe that the opium fields could cover up to 2,000 acres.

According to *As Saif*, Government officials here have discovered that Baalbek farmers have imported Turkish experts with experience in growing the opium plant *khushkash* to help with the harvesting. When refined, the drug turns into an opium base which, when further refined, will produce the lethal drug heroin.

It is therefore not surprising that the Lebanese are anxious to strike as soon as possible at this more ambitious drugs production. The Government officials, who confirmed the details of the *As Saif* report, said that the destruction of the opium fields would be a "shortly".

Whose national supply will presumably continue uninterrupted, take a more cynical view. They say the Government's determination to see its put into practice.

Dominica mail delayed
A strike by civil servants in Dominica, in the West Indies, has stopped air and surface mail to the island, the Post Office said yesterday.

Time running out for casino in Nice

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Sept 30

The odds against theacious Palais de la Méditerranée in Nice surviving as a casino for much longer are growing longer every day. The chances are that the last of the blazes there on October 31.

The lengthy fight by Mme Léone Le Roux, the Palais' owner, to keep the casino going long enough to pay off its debts seems to have little chance of success for its gaming licence expires at the end of the month. Mme Le Roux lost control of the casino on June 30, when her daughter used her votes as shareholder against the family elect M. Jean Buchet as the new managing director. M. Buchet is the nominee of the management of Ruhl's, the

more modern and successful casino, a few hundred yards east along the Promenade des Anglais.

She has been trying since then to have the election declared void on legal grounds, but today M. Buchet produced the necessary proof that he holds the 10 shares in the controlling company of the Palais which he needs to hold the post.

Mme Le Roux seems to have been so preoccupied with the battle for control of the casino at the time that she omitted to make the necessary application for renewal of the gaming licence before July 1. She has now applied directly to the Minister of the Interior for the renewal, saying that she had been unable to get the papers ready by the proper date.

Meanwhile she has made a bitter attack on M. Jacques Médecin, who is the Mayor of

Nice and also the Minister of Tourism. He said in a recent radio interview that the city was very interested in obtaining the site and turning it into a conference centre.

Mme Le Roux pointed out that the casino had paid £3.5m in local taxes to Nice and £14m in Government taxes over the past 10 years, which showed that it was not only viable but a good source of revenue to both the city and the country as a whole.

Furthermore, it provided jobs for 380 people and played an important role in the general liveliness and tourism appeal of the town.

M. Médecin has now been stung to reply that the casino can scarcely be said to be a flourishing business, since it owes £31,500 in tax to the city and a further £235,000 to the state.

Rome talks on newspaper sale report
From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, Sept 30
Rumours of changes in ownership of the Milan *Corriere della Sera*, Italy's best known newspaper, brought the announcement here today that the proprietor, Signor Angelo Rizzoli, had been summoned to Rome for a meeting next week with the Under-Secretary concerned with press affairs.

There have been frequent reports recently that West German financiers and an American multinational company are interested in the newspaper.

The Rizzoli family, in a statement published today, denied that negotiations for a sale were in hand and that they wished to change editorial policy.

Chinese leader heralds a 'new leap forward'

Peking, Sept 30—China opened its National Day celebrations tonight with a banquet for more than 3,000 in the Great Hall of the People, with Mr Pol Pot, the Cambodian leader, as the most prominent foreign guest.

The full National Day celebrations tomorrow, marking the twenty-first anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic, are expected to be "very grand and very warm", according to official Chinese sources.

Chairman Hua Kuo-feng said in his banquet toast that great successes had been achieved in the country during the past 28 years "transforming old China, which was a poor, backward, semi-colonial and semi-feudal country into a new socialist state with the beginnings of prosperity".

Since the purge of a "gang of four" almost exactly a year ago "a new period of development in our socialist

revolution and socialist construction has been ushered in", he said.

A "new leap forward" in China's national economy is making shape. . . . The national economic plan for 1977 will be fulfilled successfully, or overfulfilled.

Mr Hua said the revolutionizing line of Mao Tse-tung was being "implemented in a comprehensive and correct way".

Referring to Taiwan, he said: "We are determined to liberate Taiwan and accomplish the great task of unifying the motherland."

There will still be difficulties of one kind or another on our road of advance, but we are convinced that no difficulties can prevent us Chinese people from marching towards our set goal, for we have a correct line, we have a great party, a great army and a great people, fighting in unity, and we enjoy extensive international support."

A leading article in the

People's Daily tomorrow echoed Mr Hua's "new leap forward" line of the new Chinese leadership—it also emphasized the need to develop science and technology.

"We are relatively backward in natural science and must learn what is advanced in foreign countries," it said.

Referring to the international situation, the article dropped for the first time that observers could recall any reference to the inevitability of a new world war.

In restrained wording, it said only that the international situation was very good. It added: "The two hegemonic powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, are beset with difficulties at home and things are getting harder for them."

The main celebrations in Peking tomorrow will take place in the city's parks during the day, followed by a giant fireworks display in the evening.

For the ordinary Chinese, it will be a weekend of family reunions and special dinners on one of the main holidays of the year.

Celebrations were cancelled last year because the country was in mourning for the death of Mao Tse-tung.

Two important figures in Chinese cultural circles, who were purged during the Cultural Revolution, made their public reappearances at the banquet.

Mr Chou Yang, aged 71, a translator of Tolstoy, was a Deputy Minister of Culture and in charge of propaganda before falling foul of the Red Guards at the end of December, 1966.

Mr Hsia Yen, aged 77, a writer and dramatist, was Deputy Minister of Culture from 1954 to 1965. He was dismissed on the grounds of being "the agent of the Chinese Khreshchev (former President Liu Shao-chi)" in cultural and artistic circles—Reuters and Agence France-Presse.

OVERSEAS

Baby is
payoneted
by gang
in Rhodesia

From Our Correspondent
Salisbury, Sept. 30.—Rhodesians of all races were filled with revulsion today at news that guerrillas had brutally murdered a six-month-old child.

The Government said a gang about 25 entered the farm of Mrs Michael Glenny in the Maseru district yesterday, snatched the baby, slashed her black nurse, and threw her on a veranda, bayoneted her three times. Mr and Mrs Glenny had been rushed to their vehicle only minutes before, but escaped by on the veranda lying in a pool of blood.

Natasha was the third white child to have been murdered in the past four months and the eighth in five years.

minister
for disabled

The Government spokesman said the murder of Natasha Glenny illustrated the country's need for order to create the illusion of power that Marxist leaders seek from them.

One of the forces for the murder of Natasha Glenny was a black man, a white man, and a black man living with and sister of a guerrilla gang.

According to an official communiqué, one white officer, a black man, and a black man, all of whom were killed, were involved in the murder. The black man, a white man, and a black man, all of whom were killed, were involved in the murder.

Editor's challenge
on Biko injuries

Johannesburg, Sept. 30.—Mr Arnold Woods, editor of the *London Daily Dispatch*, today challenged the South African police and Mr Kruger, the Minister, to make a television statement on whether Biko, the Black Consciousness leader, died after being beaten up.

In a front-page leading article Mr Woods said a post-mortem report on Mr Biko had been shivered to Mr Kruger. It mentioned brain damage consistent with severe impact to the forehead.

He challenged Mr Kruger to state whether the report was shivered to him on Monday and whether it mentioned the blows to the head, internal chest injuries resulting from blows to the rib cage, and other injuries shivered disconnected with finger strike theories. Mr Woods said.

Supersonic plane
to start Soviet
passenger route

Moscow, Sept. 30.—The Tupolev 144 supersonic airliner, rival of the Anglo-French Concorde, will begin domestic passenger services on November 1, Tass reported today.

The aircraft, similar in looks to the Concorde, will fly between Moscow and the central Asian city of Alma Ata. Today's announcement made no mention of international services.

The Tu-144 originally was to start commercial service in 1974, two years ahead of Concorde, but this was delayed because extensive modifications are made after a crash at the Paris Air Show in June, 1973, Reuters.

Canadian constitution
110 year old monster

From Roy Lewis
Ottawa, Sept. 30.—Mr René Lévesque, the Quebec Premier, said today that he still hoped an independent Quebec would take part in a new North American confederation, and it would wish to be a member of the Commonwealth.

It would also develop relations with Britain, as French Canada had a close feeling for British institutions. (The referendum on independence is probably to be held in 1979, is modelled on the referendum on British membership of the EEC in 1975.)

Mr Lévesque was emphatic, however much he admired British institutions, the Canadian federal constitution is now "a hundred and ten year old monster" impossible to reform or revamp. It had to be replaced by a new relationship between French and English Canada.

Today he used the words "a new confederation" to describe his concept of a new relationship, though it is described as a confederation, in fact increasingly centralized from Ottawa.

Package tours to China
attract good response

From a Staff Reporter
The response from the public to a series of four tour visits to China before Christmas arranged by Thomson Holidays is described as "overwhelming" by a company spokesman yesterday.

The first visit is fully booked. The first passengers who have paid £795 will leave Heathrow Airport, London, on November 5 for an 11-night stay in Peking and Shanghai after an overnight stay at Bucharest. This will be the largest group of tourists who have gone to China and Thomson Holidays

Mr Nkomo claims
credit for UN
envoy's wide powers

From Nicholas Ashford
Lusaka, Sept. 30.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, co-chairman of the Patriotic Front of Rhodesia, returned here from New York today in an ebullient mood, clearly believing that he had scored an important political point during the United Nations Security Council's deliberations on the appointment of a representative in Rhodesia.

As has become his custom, Mr Nkomo called a press conference shortly after his return in order to give his interpretations of the events which took place in New York this week.

He had gone there, he said, to urge the Security Council to broaden the scope of the task assigned to the British student Commissioner-designate, Lord Carver, to cover all aspects of the transitional period leading to independence. Under the present Anglo-American plan the British Commissioner and the United Nations representative would initially deal only with military matters.

According to Mr Nkomo, the Security Council had heeded his argument and this was reflected in the amended resolution finally approved. This states that the United Nations representative should enter into discussions concerning the military and associated arrangements that are considered necessary

to achieve the transition to majority rule in Rhodesia.

Mr Nkomo said he told the Security Council that the situation in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) was unlike other colonial situations in that there was a war going on. "We felt it important that the council's resolution should not just deal with the military aspect but with the transition from a war situation to the holding of elections."

What all this manoeuvring by Mr Nkomo means is that he is determined to obtain as influential a role as possible for the Patriotic Front during the transitional period—that is if the Front decides to go along with the Anglo-American settlement plan at all. Mr Nkomo emphasized that neither he nor the Security Council had accepted or rejected the plan as a whole.

Such a role is crucial for the Patriotic Front. In any independence elections the internally-based organization headed by Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndabingisi Sithole will have an inevitable advantage over the externally-based Patriotic Front.

Salisbury, Sept. 30.—Rhodesia has ordered a Roman Catholic priest to leave the country by next Tuesday, without giving any reason, a church spokesman said today.

The Irish-born priest, Father Joseph Pashal Slavin, is the third Catholic missionary ordered out of Rhodesia in the past 10 days.

Refusal to exonerate Lenin ally executed in 1938
Stalin's spirit lives on in Kremlin

New York, Sept. 30.—The Soviet Communist Party has refused to exonerate Nikolai Bukharin, the Bolshevik revolutionary, ousted from the ruling Politburo in 1929 for his opposition to Stalin's policies and executed in 1938, according to sources close to the Bukharin family in Moscow.

They say a party official informed relatives in June that Bukharin was still considered guilty of the crimes for which he was condemned as the chief defendant in the last of the big purge trials. The news was conveyed in a typewritten document that recently reached the United States.

The party decision, taken after years of silence on the Bukharin issue, reflects the limits of the de-Stalinization set in motion by Nikita Khrushchev in 1956. The process has never been brought to completion and has dissolved into a spirit of ambivalence about Stalin and, in some quarters, even a nostalgia for his strong leadership.

A rehabilitation of Bukharin, one of Stalin's most prominent opponents, would have been

read by many Russians as a new repudiation of Stalin and as an indication of a more tolerant mood in the present leadership.

It would also have appeared as an endorsement of Bukharin's positions on issues that are still timely today. In contrast to Stalin, who wanted a crash programme of farm collectivization and industrialization, with emphasis on defence-oriented heavy industry, Bukharin supported a go-slow policy.

The party's reluctance to review the case at the request of Bukharin's widow seems to reflect greater hostility toward political deviation, insistence on orthodoxy and a devotion to the economic status quo. There is other evidence of such a tightening of attitudes in the recent suppression of dissidents and the accusations against some Jewish activists, alleged to be Central Intelligence Agency operatives.

Some Russians have spoken anxiously about a trend towards re-Stalinization and the Bukharin decision fits that concern. To affirm Bukharin's criminal guilt is to deny the political

nature of the purge trials and, in effect, to legitimize them long after they were assumed to have been officially regarded as judicial mockeries.

Bukharin was one of Lenin's close colleagues, although they had their ideological disputes. In his testament, Lenin called him "the favourite of the whole party".

After Lenin's death in 1924, Bukharin and Stalin were allied against the Trotskyists. A Politburo member and Editor of *Pravda*, Bukharin supported the new economic policy, which permitted considerable private enterprise in trade, small manufacturing and agriculture.

Stalin's abandonment of the policy in 1928-29 was the basic cause of the Stalin-Bukharin split. Bukharin opposed Stalin's revolution from above, which transformed the economy into a highly centralized, state-dominated structure. He objected to the forced collectivization of the peasantry and gave a prophetic warning of mass terror. —New York Times News Service.

Brezhnev praise for draft law revisions

Moscow, Sept. 30.—The Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet endorsed today a draft of the new Soviet constitution, including various amendments that emerged from a six-month "nation-wide discussion", Tass reported.

The Praesidium's action paved the way for the expected final adoption of the constitution

by the Supreme Soviet, the country's Parliament, when it convenes on October 4.

President Brezhnev is said to consider the new constitution by one of his key accomplishments since taking power. Tass said Mr Brezhnev addressed a session of the Praesidium to sum up the "clarifications and amendments" resulting from the discussion of the constitution.

Mr Brezhnev said "the nation-wide discussion of the draft constitution, taking into account remarks of the working people, made it possible to improve the draft constitution, to make many of its workings more precise and to enrich its contents."

Bhutto wife foresees
'opening to violence'

From Richard Wigg
Karachi, Sept. 30.
Begum Nusrat Bhutto, wife of the imprisoned former Prime Minister, advised General Zia here tonight not to follow up his broad hint yesterday and postpone Pakistan's general election, scheduled for October 18. It was the first comment by Mr Bhutto's People's Party on the martial law administrator's comment.

"There must be no postponement, for if that happens and the democratic process is blocked, the floodgates of violence are opened. This is a fact of history," the Begum said at a well-attended People's Party rally here. The rally, with last week's big meeting in Lahore, made two successes by the People's Party in what were anti-Bhutto strongholds during the disturbances last spring.

The mood of the crowd revealed clearly that many sensed that the purpose behind General Zia's words on postponement was to deprive the People's Party of winning another election.

Maulana Kausar Nazki, the People's Party secretary-general, said that if elections were not held as promised often by General Zia, "new guidelines" would be given to People's Party supporters.

The rally was dominated by a vast portrait of Mr Bhutto in a Chairman Mao-style peaked cap, and posters were plastered everywhere showing him breaking his prison handcuffs and chains.

In contrast to the People's Party, Mufi Mehmud, president of the National Alliance, was campaigning today without

mentioning General Zia's hint yesterday, but minor Alliance figures approved of postponement "if it were in the national interest".

Politicians are wary because there is suspicion that yesterday's meeting of the country's military council decided on postponement but did not make this public.

Islamabad: Mr Jehangir Khan, a former parliamentary colleague of Mr Bhutto, the deposed Prime Minister, said today that his leader had asked him to organize mass looting and killing in Pakistan cities.

He told a press conference today at Peshawar, 100 miles west of here, that during agitation by the opposition Pakistan National Alliance after the disputed elections last March, Mr Bhutto had asked him to prepare a *lashkar* (armed, battle-ready horde) of 20,000 tribesmen to kill the Alliance's supporters in cities and towns and loot their property.

Mr Jehangir Khan alleged that in return for organizing looting and killing of Opposition supporters, Mr Bhutto offered him the governorship of the North-west Frontier Province or a minister's post in the federal Cabinet.

He said that Mr Bhutto's aides had threatened him with "dire consequences, if I failed to execute the plan in accordance with the wishes of the former Prime Minister".

But, instead of executing "the sinister plan which would have caused shedding of the blood of innocent Muslim brethren, I went underground". —AP.



Astrologers say stars rule our lives

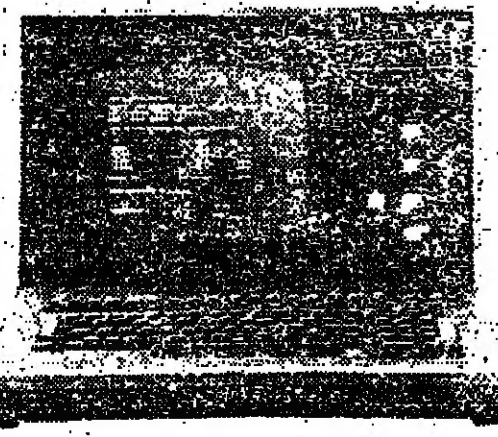
Is science proving them right?

In this Sunday's Observer Colin Wilson claims that astrology may not be as far-fetched as it seems. Why are more doctors born under Mars than any other planet? Why should so many Pisceans be so emotional? Why do the astrological birth charts of most great men form pleasing symmetrical patterns, when yours and mine produce an arbitrary mess? Coincidence? Or do the planets really

affect us from the very second of birth?

In this Sunday's Observer Colour Magazine Colin Wilson examines how computers are putting astrological theories to the test—with results that chance simply can't explain. He began a sceptic. Now he's not so sure.

Now check your horoscope. From this Sunday Colin Wilson will be compiling a horoscope for Observer readers every month.



THE OBSERVER
looks ahead of the times

[illegible][illegible]

Paperbacks of the month

Fiction
Stag's
BreathIPTON MACKENZIE: from
Penguin: The Monarch of the
(85p); Whisky Galore
Hunting the Fairies

Old MacDonald of Ben Nevis is a marvellous comic creation. Compton Mackenzie saw Highland chieftains as a back to feudal times—he got nothing to throw a stone at. His house was his castle, and he was a bull and a change. And yet the actor is endearing, his auto-temper by a wise wife, friends and the law.

His world is 1930s although Compton Mackenzie was writing a decade later. Penguin, bumper reissue of his Highland novels, although Whisky Galore (the best known) is a comedy, only hints at a passing and wistful glance to the chieftain.

MacKenzie made no concessions to the Sassanach. He fills his novels with Gaelic, even giving a glossary at the end of Whisky Galore. It is rising how quickly one knows these strange words, and how, invariably, money, are always having idiosyncrasies of the pronunciation elaborated.

High Dha Chridheachan is a House of Two Hearts, a character in Hunting the Fairies.

And that's pronounced "Creekin'?" replies the rican widow.

Michael Foreman's cover designs for *The Monarch of the Glen* (left) and *Hunting the Fairies*.

"The Ga Creenach gives you a rough idea of how it should be pronounced. The Gaelic word for 'two'—becomes a guttural 'g'.

There is an added pleasure reading Whisky Galore again for the first time in many years. When first published in 1947 everyone knew about shagwags, the make-do-and-mend of the war, even if they had been no nearer the Outer Hebrides than a length of tweed. Now

the portrait of the time, the peculiar difficulties of living on an off-island in 1943, is an added counterpoint to the story of the wreck of the SS Cabiner Minister which brought men to islands down to their last drop of Scotch in the form of thousands upon thousands of bottles of Islay Dew, Lion Rampart and Tarnan Perfection, of Thistle Green, Chief's Choice or Stag's Breath.

Once launched on his saga, Mackenzie, unlike P. G. Wode-

house, related one novel to another and although experts may fault him I have the impression that if a character has brown hair and blue eyes in *Monarch of the Glen*, he won't suddenly become an albino in *Hunting the Fairies*.

Considering that Mackenzie had a hand in the foundation of the Scottish National Party it is at first surprising how he uncovers its supporters. To Ben Nevis they are almost as bad

as hikers. And yet... perhaps it was for the good of the cause? I have a feeling that Scottish nationalism would endear itself more to the inhabitants of the United Kingdom if it did not take itself so seriously.

Ion Trewin

* Other titles also available from Penguin: *Water on the Brain* (85p), *A House for Mr. Birrell* (70p), *The author in different and interesting ways: Mackenzie, MacKenzie and an NIP*.

Thrillers
Compassion
and
suspenseFRANCIS CLIFFORD: from
Coronet: *The Naked Runner*,
The Trembling Earth, *Time Is*
An Ambush (pennies), *Drum-mer*
in the Dark (70p); *Drum-mer*
in the Dark (70p).

Francis Clifford, the novelist who died a little more than two years ago, was a writer who in the course of a career comprising 13 books spread over a little more than 20 years, consistently achieved the rare feat of combining compassion and suspense. This he did in a style of marked immediacy. The beautiful of his reports, never really given a good idea of his achievement, being as it does from his second novel, *The Trembling Earth*, to his last, *Drum-mer in the Dark*.

The Trembling Earth is short, and of one piece, the story of a single young man on the day a small village in Spain is struck by a tremor which kills more than 100 people. The young man, who has been fighting with the village to save the bell almost single-handedly. There is scarcely anything more to it than the account of the dangerous mechanics of the operation. Yet so much is done all the more surely understood. The fact that we read a short statement like "Passion is self-sufficient" amid a fast-moving succession of sentences telling us what is happening to people whose lives we want to know about does not make that observation less helpful to us at some future time when we find ourselves or see someone else in a similar, blind passion.

You feel as you come to any pin placed on that swirling map that it has been planted there at the end of a process of small, often painful steps. And this indeed seems to me to be Clifford's method. Fiction, he once said to me, "is about, isn't it, finding out." And each of his novels—besides always aiming to entertain its readers—finds out step by step more and more things about the human beings who clash and congregate in the world.

This is the pattern of *The Naked Runner*, Clifford's ninth novel. It opens with a scene of an Irish photographer patiently catching the shots he wants of a particular species of hummingbird in some unspecified Caribbean island. He sees a plane crash nearby, cautiously investigates and step by step little secret, in every half-thought aspiration. And small, real, day-by-day events happening to a person in whom you utterly believe create a suspense that is, compared with

the everyday stuff your average thriller writer produces, like proof whisky or beside tinned shandy.

Clifford's seventh novel, *Time Is An Ambush*, also set in the Spain in which he lived for a period, is a good deal more complex and more ambitious. It is an ingenious story catching up into each other two distinct threads, a cold and yet suddenly intense love-affair between an expatriate English novelist and the wife of a visiting German businessman and a dual between the local head of the police and a gypsy-like, long-term petty criminal. And again tremendous tension is generated, coming from simple observation of the ordinary facts of the holidaymakers' round in sunny Spain—coupled with a searching interest in every major character that the story throws up, even the unsympathetic Captain Romero, an interest which makes you as you read experience an equal pained concern.

As the story progresses small areas of experience are marked down for us, pins are placed for a few blessed minutes. The most convincing ever hard-to-comprehend map of the human condition. The apparent aim in a Clifford novel is to generate excitement, but the novelist's real task is done all the more surely understood. The fact that we read a short statement like "Passion is self-sufficient" amid a fast-moving succession of sentences telling us what is happening to people whose lives we want to know about does not make that observation less helpful to us at some future time when we find ourselves or see someone else in a similar, blind passion.

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covers things about himself, things about those involved with him, things about life.

One of the chief among these last discoveries he makes is the extent to which people with power will cruelly and unthinkingly manipulate chance individuals who happen to suit their purposes. This story takes place in an imaginary state ruled by a glittering dictator. But Clifford's particular interest in that unpleasant aspect of humanity sprang, he once told an interviewer, from his work at the end of World War II in the office of the Special Operations Executive in Baker Street, London. There he became aware of people, people he was acquainted with, being manipulated in the interests of vague distant ends. And it was something he could not take outside the immediate necessities of fighting a hot war.

That set-up, fairly explicitly referred to—there is a passing mention of a former agent named Thompson. Clifford's own real name, now writing novels—was the background for his eleventh novel, *The Naked Runner*, highly acclaimed in the film version with Sessale. Perhaps indeed, the very closeness of the subject to his own experiences made Clifford here, uncharacteristically, twist circumstances rather more than in his other novels. So you do have to, for once, suspend disbelief here and there. But that done, the story of a wartime agent and ultra crack shot tricked into carrying out a peacetime assassination in East Germany, because his young son appears to have been kidnapped is clutch-heart gripping.

His last novel, *Drum-mer in the Dark*, is a book that shows a marked progress over the earlier stories. Here he takes not one but two protagonists, quite different though skilfully contrasted, and subjects each to parallel ordeals. One is a senior Whitehall man with major responsibilities in the fight against IRA terrorism, the other is a weak and greedy salesman who, contrarily, is in fact the vital link in the IRA's supply route for their newest, terribly effective weapon. As each undergoes the hammering that fate or the callous manipulators has in store for him, step by step more and more is revealed to them, and us, about the effects of fear, that night drummer, and about the effects of hope. And the more we get to know the two of them, the more we care for them in the end, the more truly gripping does their joint story become. Compassion and suspense indissolubly linked.

H. R. F. Keating

Memoir
Ancestors
and
servants
galoreHand, Right Hand, by
Sir Sitwell (Quartet, four
nes, £2.50 each).

published between the 1945-49, the late Sir Sitwell's Autobiography, our volumed *Left Hand*, *Hand*, is now available in back to those who enjoy reading the habits and ways of an exclusive, snob- and privileged society, and this indulgent and rously peripatetic narrative, years later, in the of current social life, one is shocked at the nt insularity of this family whose chronicler little perception of how trol is the constant un- relaxation of luxury, rged, high-handed and near total disregard to per cent of the population. Such a illustrates what is today as "the unacceptable of capitalism", and, possi- for that reason alone, be recommended read- through clearly the antics e Sitwells, especially Sir's father, Sir George strikes one as utterly could be said to contain amusement.

a new generation of rs one can but attempt to brase the more salient es of each of these four es. "The Cruel Month" us from Sir Osbert's to the end of the Vic- era (with bits about the War thrown in); a child- at Renishaw, Derbyshire, other Sitwellian houses, ough, etc. Ancestors may confuse this is a family, well aware of the se- galore. Every privilege is for granted, and al- Sir George made life le for his children, they d through very comfort- on the whole, ever con- of superiority over- fortunate beings outside circle: "People At You Must Not Look" race and favour is faith-

fully reproduced in the famous Seren portrait the making of which Sir Osbert relates with gusto.

"The Scarlet Tree" is a slice of that Edwardian "era of excess" that is one facet of Sir Osbert goes to prep school where he had a bad time, and to Brun where he did not shine. First trips to Italy, where Sir George had bought Osbert a castle (Monte-gufo) brings new glamour into the story, and culture too glimpsed in Venice and elsewhere. One is awfully sorry for Edith, so disliked by Sir George, with nothing but her poetry to sustain her. "Great Morning" introduces Sir Osbert as a soldier (Grenadier Guards), serving at the Tower of London, which enables him to escape a bit, not much, yet a bit, from Sir George ever determined that all his kids and kin should be guided step by step by him. The bright- young things of the days are paraded, and Sir Osbert starts to write and to enjoy the Russian Ballet. The wisest anecdote of the whole book comes from Diaghilev (Sir Osbert spells it "Diaghilev") when brother Sacherevell then serving at Aldershot, was forced to leave early: "Qu'est-ce que c'est, cette Aldershot—c'est une femme!"

"Laughter in the Next Room" takes us to the first world war, passed over with slight reference, whole classes were awarded so that the world should in time be made safe, on the one hand, for a beer-logged trades-unionism in the victorious countries, and, on the other for Hitler and Bolshevism. Sir Osbert stood for Parliament (Liberal), failed to get in, and took to writing instead. Splendid glimpses of how the famous Sitwell trio—Edith, Osbert and Sacherevell—prospered in their united and separate careers (again the latter you know). Modern Art, society hostesses and literary lions, interrupted briefly by the General Strike, which, according to this account, owed its rise to Sir Osbert's initiative. We are given further views of Sir George holding court in Italy, ever constant to his creed of seeing nothing but his own family life. It is perhaps only fair to add that Sir George's attitude towards the world is viewed as "a piece of social history which is of more than passing importance". Certainly it reveals much that is socially significant about attitudes rigorously held by a privileged elite, one fears, self-satisfied caste.

Kay Dick

Science fiction
Blasts of
powerThe Best Science Fiction of
J. G. Ballard (Orbit/Futura,
£1.25)

Disguise being—as every actor knows—a formidable source of energy then the writer communicating through *The Best Science Fiction of J. G. Ballard* is a massive blast of power. For here are many, many masks of style—from scientific via horrific to surrealistic—each different interpretation of the creative impulse behind them, this the most poetic of British SF avant-gardes. Masks? Perhaps "masks" is the more appropriate word for these tableaux of ritual whose allegorical quality keeps him aloof from the didactic quality of some of his contemporaries in the field.

These are his own selection: and the interrupting introductions to each story, while less chatty than Isaac Asimov's, are eminently more helpful in austere self-analysis of the man who was born in Shanghai of English parents and who, after living there until he was 15, was interned during the war for two and a half years by the Japanese in a civilian prison camp. It is never wise to think that biography makes art wholly explicable, but he will admit about the beautiful, capturing "The Day of Forever": "Perhaps the young man running around those abandoned hotels reminded me of my own adolescence... as a child among the Japanese military one had an extraordinary immunity, we moved like pilot fish in front of them as they wandered through empty apartment blocks and disused seaplane bases, peered into

The Sirius Mystery, by Robert
K. G. Temple (Futura, 95p)

This well documented and scholarly account of a remote African tribe's ancient beliefs in the invisible companion to the Dog Star, the white dwarf Sirius B (undiscovered until recent times), is eerily convincing. The paperback edition has been trimmed down somewhat leaving out the more esoteric

drained swimming pools with the deep melancholy all Japanese seem to have."

So is all now made relevant? Are his preoccupations—with water, sand and concrete—and that nudging symbol of crystal ball—thus explaining away on the couch of such disclosure, reduced to mere ciphers of memory? Such items are, happily, only clues to the artist's solution he was to re-trieve for himself in terms of his fascination with the man- dala and, especially, time in "Chronopolis". "The Voices of Time" or the enchantment of "The Garden of Time", where a man and a woman of the old order keep the new world's rioting mobs at bay by crush- ing each of the time-suspending flowers... until everything runs out with the last petal.

"Their world must be a mon- strous surrealist one," says a character in "The Voices of Time" (I'll shrink to this!) and life as its own time-machine moving towards decay is an obvious obsession. He writes: "Time is one of the great themes of all science fiction and one that has dominated most of my own writing." No, the apparatus of his work is not so easily dismissed by knowing one or two biographical details. From what past, from the rest of the world, of what domestic uproar was caused? "I remember my wife being outraged when she read this story, and rightly so—the marriage described here, like all those that follow it, has no basis in my own life."

He himself knows what he is all about: "Science Fiction talks back to the late twentieth century in its own language... If the Space Age had arrived before the rest of the world, for the science fiction writer it was over." His own direction: "In- wards into the mind and deep time." It is a course which works less well in those stories about the rest of the world, for the science fiction writer it was over. "The Day of Forever" is a future can just be seen as the shutter of his writing opens: "As he drove on west- ward the air grew warmer, the rising dawn lifting in front of him with its promise of light and the thought to find this most inhospitably sombre of writers releasing to me such a charge of optimism. Yet another mask-masque?"

Richard Dyott

slash of surprise. They come through well enough on a popular magazine level, but I feel the ideas explored and the ideas excited in the reader's mind deserve better—although he is still true to himself in his own terms, and you feel it is his sense of isolation which is his hallmark. (I hope I am not chasing an invisible man up his own entry by noting that two of his heroes have names which are practically the same as the notoriously reclusive writer, B. Traven, who wrote "The Treasure of Sierra Madre".)

Ballard experiments in many forms—the haunting and elliptical "The Terminal Beach" is an obvious precursor to his polluted mainstream novel, "Crash"—but from it all one of his most astonishing achievements is surely that of image-making; the magician makes scenes to mesmerise us into trance acceptance of a world defined only by Ballard's laws of order. His most significant realization is that the Space Age is finished and, in the description of the myth that the future has already become in "The Terminal Beach", we are in a timeless, airless world as old caterpillar-vehicle tracks are encountered: "The best re- leased by the weapons tests had fused the sand and the double line of fossil imprints, un- covered by the evening air, wound its serpentine way among the hollows like the foot- falls of an ancient saurian."

His SF novels are often seen as studies in slow-motion disintegration, the myth that the future has already become in "The Terminal Beach", we are in a timeless, airless world as old caterpillar-vehicle tracks are encountered: "The best re- leased by the weapons tests had fused the sand and the double line of fossil imprints, un- covered by the evening air, wound its serpentine way among the hollows like the foot- falls of an ancient saurian."

So that, introducing "The Voices of Time", Ballard talks of his own need to make "some kind of private peace with the unseen powers of the universe" and in the final story, "The Day of Forever", a future can just be seen as the shutter of his writing opens: "As he drove on west- ward the air grew warmer, the rising dawn lifting in front of him with its promise of light and the thought to find this most inhospitably sombre of writers releasing to me such a charge of optimism. Yet another mask-masque?"

Tom Hutchinson

TEACH
YOURSELF
EUROPEAN

Learn about European affairs by reading Europe, published on the first Tuesday of each month with The Times EUROPA The first truly European newspaper

Fiction
Cold peace
in
college
townsALISON LURIE: from Penguin,
The War Between the Tates
(55p); *Love and Friendship*
(90p); *Nowhere City* (90p).

The Tate children have been transformed. Intelligent, lively, affectionate Muffy and Jeffie have grown into rude, selfish, nasty, tall Marilla and Jeffrey. To their mother Erica Tate, it seems as if two monstrous lodgers have taken over their minds and bodies—lodgers who pay no rent, whose leases can not be terminated.

Their father, Brian Tate, professor of politics, is inclined to draw a parallel between the hostilities in his household and the war in Vietnam. He identifies with the South Vietnamese. His house has become occupied territory. His children have gradually taken it over, moving in troops and supplies, depleting natural resources, destroying the local culture.

From the younger Tates' point-

tion, the parallel is reversed. Brian and Erica are nasty superior in material resources and military experience and, worse still, "keep insisting publicly that they are not trying to destroy Jeffrey or Marilla, but instead fighting to preserve the best, most enlightened and democratic elements within them."

Alison Lurie will not allow us to take up sides for long. She guides us so skilfully behind the lines of each opposing camp that we are bound to sympathize with all their causes. Her account of the war between the senior Tates, which is the main subject of her novel, has out- alleigances swinging to and fro as though we received news of the fighting on alternate days from the *Morning Star* and the *Telegraph*.

Brian Tate, a handsome, small man who has failed to become as famous as he ought, succumbs to the unconditional devotion of a postgraduate student named Wendy. Erica finds out, is deeply shocked and does not begin to recover until Wendy, pregnant, calls on her to confess and confide. Then, as Brian conscientiously arranges for the abortion, Erica plans for the birth—along with her own divorce and her husband's second marriage. She is determined to do the right thing. Incidentally, she stands to gain what (unconsciously) she most

desires: a well-earned break from matrimony with the sooth- ing prospect of Brian's being saddled with a thoroughly unsuitable new wife.

Alison Lurie has been compared with Jane Austen and she deserves the compliment. Her touch is so light, her perception so sharp, her wit so delightfully disconcerting. Her human dramas are all planned down with solid familiar objects—like the tinny sandwich with its rye bread and mayonnaise that Erica is making while she hears Wendy's confession. It prompts her to contrast the outward whole- grain honesty and decency of Wendy's conduct with the slippery, opaque, homogenized mayonnaise behaviour of her husband. When Brian has departed she clears his belongings from the chest of drawers, "feeling no nostalgia, only a faint distaste for all those identical rolled dark brown orlon socks, clustered together like horse droppings."

Poor, vulnerable Wendy gets precisely what she wants in the end, but that no longer includes a middle-aged professor. Brian is rather relieved to return home. The occupying forces seem less hateful now that they have outgrown all resemblance to adorable Muffy and Jeffie. Erica is rather relieved to take her husband back. Convention wins the war.

The same theme recurs in all three novels: middle-class, married Americans, mostly bobbing on their academic ponds, are suddenly swept towards faster waters. The excitement is irresistible. They plunge in. It is bracing, glorious, but deep. They cannot touch the bottom. They panic and paddle back to safety—just in time.

Love and Friendship, Lurie's first novel, was originally published in 1962, 12 years before *The War Between the Tates*. It concerns a couple approximately 12 years younger than Erica and Brian, living in another small college town. It is almost equally brilliant.

Nowhere City is the story of a young east-coast couple, Katherine and Paul, grappling with life in Los Angeles in the 1950s. Paul eventually ends his flirtation with the beautiful culture and retreats to the east. But Katherine is converted and remains, indistinguishable from all the other fun-loving west-coast women with her new, un- named skin, sun-bleached hair and sherry-bellies. It is funny and vividly drawn, but I found it less satisfying. Perhaps Alison Lurie had already convinced me in her other novels that adults (unlike children) cannot change as easily as that—i.e., indeed, they can change at all.

Anna Coote

Yums

Kitchen Wizard, by Deborah
Jarvis (Arnold Lion, 50p).

My favourite food as a child was something called Kensington Wonder, a sort of bowdlerized trifle made with no sherry and finished off with cold Bird's Custard. Hot eighteenth century recipes, Mrs. Ridout's celebrated sausage rolls in the tuckshop were good as were the tea-time fry-ups. Mrs. Spicer laid on at the Spindleberry in Cheap Street. Monday Muck (otherwise unkindly known as "Beans and Bacon") was unpopular but no as bad as the cooking dates we used to have for tea at prep school.

Children, like vegetarians and different ethnic groups, have their own cook-books and cuisines. Mrs. Jarvis's chapter headings reveal a world unfamiliar to the adult eater: "A Munchkin Brunch", "Lunch in Lilliput", "Dinner with Davy Crockett", "Snugglers' Sacks and Eskimoes' Sleds". On closer inspection of the individual dishes translate into recognizable near adult concoctions. Milk Snozzles, for instance, turn out to be more or less common garden milk shakes, and a chizz-stick is a chocolate spoon suitable for stirring Flinnapan. Folly which is a hot but barely non-alcoholic punch.

When I gave the book to my own children, with fierce restrictions to produce a comprehensive consumer report, I quickly discovered that when it comes to cooking they fall into the same category as husbands: extremely messy, inclined to panic, strong, and short on stamina. Even though Emma, who is seven, began the "Foaming Gold" and the "Eski-Roll", it tended to be Mummy or Granny who finished them. And when it came to cooking the "Hickory Chicken" with mashed potato crisps and butter she turned out to be too squeamish to handle the raw meat.

On the whole the recipes seemed to work and the directions were easy to follow, though since I was not always clear what the end result of, say, "Foaming Gold" was supposed to be, you could not always be sure. Actually "Foaming Gold" was a sort of treacle brittle. "Yums" according to Alexander, who is five and has imported this appalling word of approbation from his primary school (P. Howard please investigate). The "Hopscotch Brownies" supervised by Granny in Wiltshire stuck to her pan though she thinks that may be because her pan was too big. The book is metric and granaries have no idea what 20.5 cm or 23 cm square baking pans look like. (What's more they see no good reason to find out.) The illustrations, by Arthur Robins, are jolly. I would like an index or at least a more comprehensive and comprehensible table of contents. I am sorry too that there is no "Kensington Wonder", but at least there is no "Monday Muck".

Tim Heald

FONTANA
TOP TEN PAPERBACKS

- 1 Brian Calison
A SHIP IS DYING 70p
A blood and thunder tale of endless action, stark terror and human bravery
- 2 Winston Graham
THE BLACK MOON 95p
The fifth novel in the much acclaimed Poldark series
- 3 Winston Graham
THE FOUR SWANS £1.00
The sixth novel in the much acclaimed Poldark series
- 4 Helen MacInnes
AGENT IN PLACE 85p
A satiric-smooth novel of international intrigue (Sunday Times)
- 5 Anthony Powell
HEARING SECRET HARMONIES 95p
The twelfth and final volume of "A Dance to the Music of Time"
- 6 Jay Gourlay
THE GREAT LAKES TRIANGLE 75p
Deadlier and more horrific than *The Bermuda Triangle*
- 7 Beryl Bainbridge
A QUIET LIFE 75p
A near perfect book (New Statesman)
- 8 Taylor Caldwell
GLORY AND THE LIGHTNING £1.00
Bestselling author of the TV saga *Agrippa and the Kings*
- 9 Ursel & Derek Norman
PASTA! PASTA! (illus.) £1.50
- 10 Ursel & Derek Norman
SOUP, BEAUTIFUL SOUP (illus.) £1.50

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FROM THE NORTH POLE TO THE SOUTH POLE

Weekend

SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

Hundreds of Times readers bought the Armillary Pendants sold by craftsman Geoffrey Bell and many have written in — for which many thanks since so few customers ever write except to complain. I have been shown hundreds of letters from happy customers, not just satisfied but happy. What a nice bunch you all are. Several of you ordered the silver pendant in gold.

So, for you and for many others who do not know his work, here are three of Geoffrey Bell's latest pieces. First the pendants. In the drawings you see one side of a working model of an Astrolabe pendant, also in sterling silver — and here I should mention that many of the delays on hand-made silver pieces are not due to the craftsman as much as to the long queue for hallmarking.

The Astrolabe was developed from the Armillary Sphere and is a "planisphere" — a flat circle like a coin, showing much of the information from its three-dimensional predecessor and a lot more. It is the most complicated of the early scientific instruments and probably one of the first used to tell time mechanically. There is proof of its existence in Alexandria around AD 500, but its origins are said by some to go back to the second century BC. The tenth century Persian Astrolabe is the earliest known solid piece although Arabs and Persians had long used the instruments.

The technicalities and the names of the various parts of the Astrolabe are described in the leaflets so I shall leave you to read all about it when you send for them, but only that this particular pendant is based on a 16th-century design which was always admired for its beauty as well as its instrumental functions. What is nice is to have a pendant on which

you can move the "hands". The price, complete with 22-inch silver chain, is £69 if ordered now — VAT and postage are included and you will need to put £19 down. All orders are sent off in strict sequence, the remainder of the price being due when the pendant is ready for dispatch.

The other pendant I liked is the Lodestone, set in a silver cage that captures the black-grey lodestone securely. Lode is the old English word for "way" or "journey" — the nicer but less familiar description would be the Waystone pendant. The lodestone dates from pre-history, although its magnetic properties have been much recorded since then, starting with documents from the Chinese in AD 121. By at least the 11th century lodestones were carved as fish and hollowed out and their magnetic qualities, their tendency to point towards the Pole Star, were so well known that lodestones were used as navigational instruments either with or without compasses, over land or sea masses. There is more interesting history about the stone in the Bell leaflets so, once again, I shall leave you to read it there.

The pendants are fascinating, very modern yet redolent of history and made in a craftsman's workshop by old craft methods.

Every stone is different, so every pendant cage has to be specially made, and I hear that the actual top piece of the pendant below the hanging loop, has been smoothed and made more attractive since I saw the pendant myself and borrowed it for illustration. The hallmark bears Geoffrey Bell's cypher and is a tribute to craftsmen now and of old. I think it is reasonably priced at £38, complete with silver 22-inch chain and box. The deposit is £8 and delivery details are as for the Astrolabe. Making

the pieces can take anything from six to eight weeks, but the hallmark queue is another problem.

And now for the third piece which is a clock. Bell faces will have wondered why it has not always been a clock for that is the craft in which he made his name and only his lifelong fascination with accurate or old-time instruments diverted him into pendants because he could think of no nicer way to present some of these particles of instrument history.

The Ladybird Clock is described by him as the horological gift for 1977 but, since it is now just about to be offered to Times readers outside his list of loyal, regular customers of many years, I think you may substitute 1978 and still be among the first to buy one. This clock is also based on magnetism, like so many of the early scientific discoveries and tools. Magnetism in clocks has fascinated generations of craftsmen.

The traditional and most familiar magnetic clock of this kind is the famous Tortoise

Clock, beloved of the magnetic fraternity. Geoffrey Bell found the tortoise, so endearing in life, rather an unattractive creature in metal and decided on the more friendly and appealing ladybird.

He then, perhaps subconsciously influenced by his passion for instruments, designed a gilded brass case like the alpine clocks but of modern design. They have thick glass, nicely cut and very, very clear, and the diameter is about 4½ inches. They stand nearly 2½ inches tall and they entrance every caller who sees one. They should be set on low tables or pieces of furniture since they are read from above and you will find them fascinating because, as you try one out for a longish period, you begin to tell the time more or less accurately by them. In fact, the ladybird meanders a bit, going into reverse, settling sideways

and generally not always potting her nose or foot to the actual time. But she does manage pretty well and you can begin to tell whether the time is 6.50 or more like 7.05. This is an "ish" clock, really, but not everyone needs fine accuracy when they probably have good wrist watches and fine timekeepers around the house. There is a key to move the ladybird although some enjoy shaking her off her magnet to the middle of the dial and then shaking her back on to it at the proper hour. Very much a collector's item which is not being made now and may not be made again, this is also a lovely piece to own. It costs £65 and only £20 will be made — delivery time will be quoted on individual order, as will the deposit which Bell has not charged to his "regulars". Leaflets available from Antony Winchester, Four Marks, Hants. GU34 5JB.



Drawings by Karen Dawes



Photograph by Gordon Ferguson



Photograph by Trevor Sutton

Skytrain passengers, or any who are now travelling further since the fares war began, must be looking for flight bags. Woolworth's version is good value at £6.99 for one that measures 11 inches high by 9½ inches wide and 17 inches long, or £7.99 for one of the same height and width but a couple of inches longer.

Light green with brown trim, navy blue with tan or brown with tan, these useful holdalls are very lightweight, not particularly stylish but thoroughly useful in a strong as strong 210 denier nylon with vinyl trim. At major Woolworth stores.

The shoulder strap is detachable and has a broad piece on it to make a shoulder rest but, for those who dislike shoulder bags, the carrying handles are strong and just big enough to slip over the wrist when hunting for passports or boarding cards. The outside pockets are useful for odds-and-ends — I usually dispense with a handbag and use only a cabin or overnight bag when travelling so as to have just one piece of carrying baggage.

I find the John Lewis branches very good at luggage at higher prices and Debenhams is also hard to beat, being a devotee of good luggage as long as it is strong. I tend to go for higher-priced pieces and have had them for such years that I find myself wondering if I can justify some of the lovelier pieces I see in shops today — the mock tapestry are very much suitable with every colour and for every occasion.

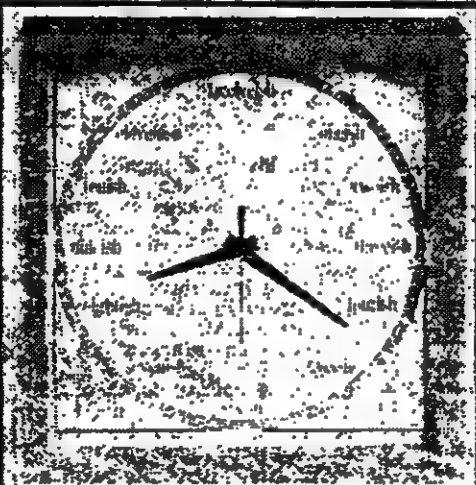
For those who want chic, extra durability and strength and something that looks a bit different, I do recommend squared-up brown vinyl cases with "secret" combination locks at around £25 to £25 in many leading stores and some specialist shops — see them at Fortnum, Finigans, Harrods, Heathrow Hotel

Boutique and Revelation of 170 Piccadilly in London and at similar shops out of London, the name of the bag being the Continental 500, with hinged lid-tops, rather like piano-top hinges. At a few shops there are some lovely ones for the rich, similar but in cowhide, and these would appeal to me if I had the kind of money that could run to about £112.

The distributor is Clifford Goodnik, Executive Gadget Company, 30 Baker Street, London, W1. He is also finding a welcome for the "ish" clock which comes from Los Angeles. Faces are black or white with white or black lettering while the frames are red, black, white or of plain grained wood. All the German printed-circuit movements are powered by battery and they cost around £29 each. Now at Chappells, 50 New Bond Street, London, W1, but on their way nationwide to stores and fancy goods shops so ask for the nearest retailer.

The clock being very much a fun gadget it seems worth mentioning another gadget from the same distributor, the Kinetic sculptures as pictured here and featuring golfer, tennis, hockey or baseball players. Buy them for fun, if £66 is your idea of fun prices, from Presents of Sloane Street, or Sylvia's, of Beauchamp Place. The £66 includes a voltage converter because, when switched on, the player keeps at his training.

These kinetic, almost frenetic sculptures can be adapted for fishing, fencing and possible other sports in future. They need lubrication after about eight hours of running time and they do need setting up properly — the fisherman can catch the victim in a net but only periodically so. They are not primarily sold for personal delight but to clubs and such which want to honour their own champions and who have the player's or the club's name on the plinth.



After my notes on Taylor of London's Paddington Street, one of the last of the handful of hand-made shoemakers, I had a spate of letters about the rapid passing of personal service establishments — that last word being the one that came most readily to readers' minds and pens. It seems that small service businesses are rapidly being priced out of larger towns and cities, find it hard to exist in smaller towns and villages — for lack of foot-traffic and usually are to be found in medium-sized towns. I thought, it might be useful to compile a list of such establishments as readers who wholeheartedly recommend so that I can at least provide some readers with useful answers. Most such services being purely local, I would not envisage publishing it on this page. But, if we get a good one, it will be helpful to you and to me.

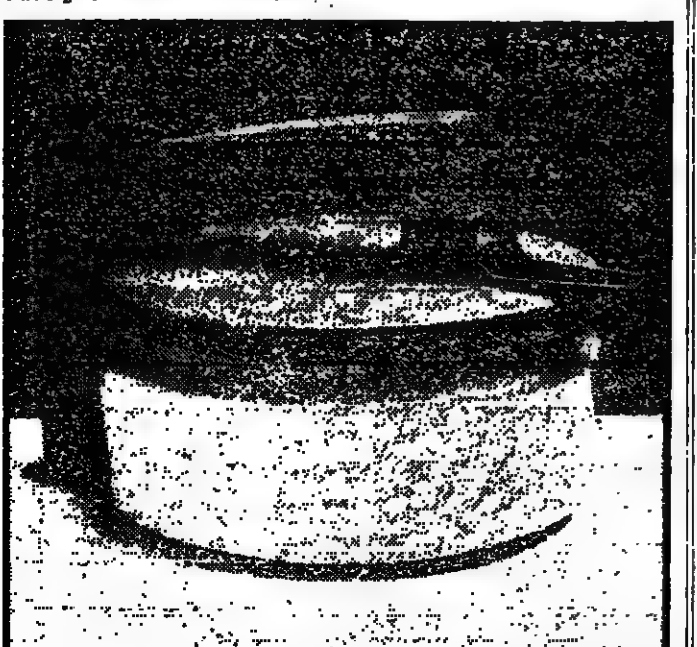
I was particularly reminded of this when I heard that G. Thomas, the Duke Street hairdresser in London, is to cease business when his lease expires this Christmas. Always known affectionately as Thomas's, it remained for so long one of the last bastions of men's hairdressing establishments along with Topper (now the Westbury Hotel); Trumper, still discreetly resplendent but dignified in Curzon Street, suitably across the road from Mirelle restaurant; and Truefitt and Hill of Dover Street, still there and as dignified and courteous as ever.

Thomas's has been in Duke Street since the turn of the century and the present doyen, Charles Isted, has been there for thirty years. Oddly, the number of customers has increased healthily but, to offset that, most have their hair cut less frequently these days, the short back and sides being dropped even by the most conservative diehards. Charles Isted is interesting when it comes to anecdotes and it is clear that Thomas's, or at least hairdressing, is his life and that his customers would mostly follow him anywhere.

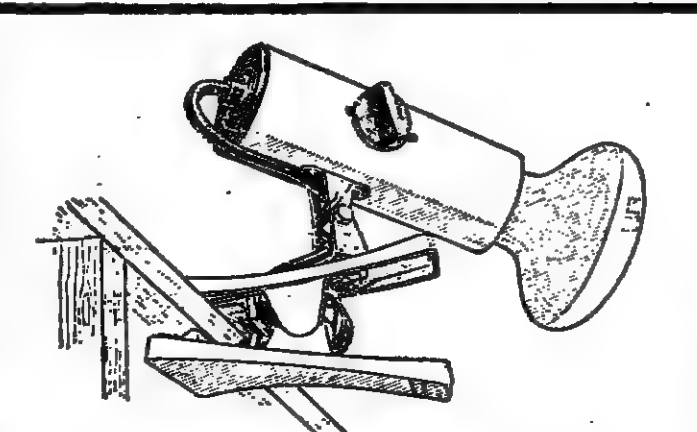
Besides the rampant inflation in rent, rates and allied overheads, quality hairdressing prices have remained so low that they would stagger any woman who knows only female salon prices and many a young man who goes to the modern salons. A haircut is £1.50 and even with a shampoo, which many customers do not have, the charge goes only to £2.50. Really long hair, that needed extra cutting and styling, gets the treatment for £2.50. Yet, when protested that such prices were too low, Charles Isted said much of modern hairdressing is a con trick, with which I agree to some extent. He sentimentalizes about how a Wednesday haircut would look perfect for Saturday's party in the old days but styling and sets now vanish overnight and his views on casual styles are perhaps best left unquoted because they are more often than not unduly messy that lower the hairdresser's reputation. His views of night-school hairdressers and the quality or dearth of recruits is also characteristic of a man to whom top people like to go for their tidily businesslike appearance. It is said, however, because Isted's life dies when his hairdressing and his customer's friendships and

Will Thomas's "Royal Yacht" toiletries for men die too? They were also born in 1900 and have a pungent, noticeable fragrance which has been nearly emulated only in Old Spice. Whatever the TV commercials say, I think most of the current men's fragrances from leading houses are too subtle, too ephemeral. I like a man to smell nice and be unashamed of it so that the scene is good and strong and even boastful — anything else seems to me to be apologetic and doing things by halves. What a digression. But, as I said, I would like to build up a list of service companies and, when they can serve a large sector of the population, I like to include them on this page along with merchandise. So please do let us know.

Of all the electric kettles I have seen I have only been really attracted to the Russell Hobbs automatic-switch Forgette in its heyday when it was the only one of its kind; RE's Futura with the plastic body (which has been the subject of occasional troubles but, latterly, constant improvement); and this Hoover kettle which I have seen in a number of homes this year. Its smallness compared with most familiar brands is an advantage to the majority of households where more hot water is boiled only for throwing away than is poured over the tea bags. The colours are very good, matching well the standard golden tans, greens, damson, reds and blues of kitchen worktops. It handles well, emits no steam on the hands, is safe, and is always admired. As with all electricals, prices vary but I have seen it at Woolworth's bigger stores and Woolco for £11.95 — about which I cannot complain bearing in mind the price of electric kettles these days. It is, as it deserves to be, widely stocked nationwide.



Photograph by Koon Ching



Prices of four of the lamps featured on this page last week were given as higher than those charged at British Home Stores and Woolworth's and I hope that readers enjoyed the discovery that the outdoor lantern, lacy nylon shade, smoky pendant and such were actually cheaper than expected.

At the same time, many readers asked for strong but portable spotlights to move from living room to kitchen, workshop to study, shelf unit to below-stairs cupboard and so on. A home is full of people who sew, knit, work with wood in different rooms so that portable lights to plug in anywhere are both a saving in money because you do not need to buy a multiplicity of lamps and useful because they can be taken to dark corners which need to be lit up only occasionally.

I have one myself and appreciate the demand for them. They are not beautiful so do not look for them as such. They are made by many firms and are in most of the

stores or larger multiples but don't seem to be as easy to find as they ought to be. My own choice is the Woolworth's model which is a no-nonsense, useful interpretation of the old-fashioned draughtsman's or artists clamp light.

Of metal and plastic, it can be in white, in brown black from the major Woolworth branches for £5.49 — and at that price you could afford a couple. It's approved by the British Standards Institution and is tough and durable. It takes a 60-watt spotlight bulb, which gives enough brilliance for any localized environment, is fully adjustable and can be swivelled as required so there is no danger of marring the surface it is clipped to by clamping and re-clamping.

The clamp is tough and has three built-in soft plastic cushions to buffer your shelf or table from damage — although it should be simple enough to persuade the family to use additional foam, plastic, or cardboard protection if you feel over-zealous. Plug it into the nearest socket or, as some fami-



lies, make a wooden bar on which to fix it — the bar being adapted to be on desks, tables or some other surface. For those who want an "old-fashioned" portable light, I offer this one from Christopher Wray with a heavy base of cast brass and a delicately decorated air. The glass shade is hand-made in white, green or mustard and the design is

The Basilisk Press, which has been publishing limited editions of really fine books to which no sacrifices are made on the grounds of price to peak quality, has recently opened a retail shop behind a brightly painted facade at 32 Regent Lane, Hampstead, London NW3 (01-722 2142).

The shop has been opened mainly because there is now widespread interest in reviving the use and collection of small private printing presses and this is the only shop in Britain specialising in such products. Superb books are available there in which the printing, illustrations and even the binding are lovingly done by individual artists. Prices are from about £30 upwards and these fit very well into the range of precious or "antique" items of today at a time when declining craftsmanship is being revived in small shops here and there. Basilisk themselves have produced four volumes, facsimiles of the work of Humphrey Repton, who was so admired at the end of the 18th century. One volume is explanatory and the entire set is £485 but selling. There are also some marvellous, facsimile pages of the famous Kilmiscott Chaucer.

The semi-expert, semi-consumer, intelligent but far-from-rich lady who went along to the shop to report to me fell in love with an original Gannymed limited edition, printed in 1963, of King Lear, superbly illustrated by Oscar Kokoschka, the Austrian modern master. At £400, the Lear is far from cheap, but she found it a most covetable possession.

Among the tempting botanical works is Wilfred Blunt's *Tulips and Tulipomania*. Rory McEwan has produced lovely prints at £35 each plus VAT or a complete book of 16 reduced-size, facsimile copies at £61.

The directors, Charles Garry, publisher Maurice Temple-Smith and Rory McEwan himself, have a penchant for unusual but fascinating objects besides books. Australian flower prints by Ferdinand Bauer, a collection of Italian and Celtic calligraphy by Margaret Clark and a good selection of linocuts, etchings and engravings by many artists are there for your wish the books. Anne Dropp's enchanting appliquéd cushions in animal shapes are £6.50 each and there are charmingly painted stones — all these are very attractive to children. Ribbed and exotic jewelry from Morocco, Ethiopia and the Yemen has been collected by Mr and Mrs Laurence Morgan and you can buy hand-beaten silver necklaces, bangles and rings adorned with multi-coloured ambers and corals at anything from £7.50 to £200. The nuts of the nutmeg tree, the nutmeg casters have made interesting and original calligraphic greetings cards at anything from 7p to 20p.

Especially pertinent for homesick Australians are some curious dried seedpods from the Baobabs or an indigenous plant that goes under the name of the Xylocarpus (or, rather less dramatically, the Western Woody Pear). Postal order, though far from easy because personal choice plays such a large part in buying there, is possible; so dry phone.

George Hutchinson

Mr Steel the Boy Scout may find he has tied the Liberals in knots

Freshly anointed by Mr Steel, to the hosannas of the attendant Liberal votaries, Mr Callaghan, who has likened himself to Moses, advances towards the Promised Land where office is everlasting—or so he could wish. In the new Liberal creed, reaffirmed on Wednesday, he finds hope, comfort and even the prospect of salvation.

By persuading the Liberal Assembly to endorse the renewal of the motion, Mr Steel has again underpinned the Callaghan Government. This is what he meant to do. Having succeeded, he is entitled to feel well pleased with the week's work in Brighton, which Mr Callaghan now proceeds in confidence for his own party conference. It is not surprising if the Prime Minister experiences a quickening of the pulse and walks with a lighter step.

Mr Callaghan is an optimist of a somewhat Maccabean kind. This is not to say that he just waits on events, however: he does more than that, and helps to create them. Thus he was able to nobble Mr Steel

earlier in the year, and he has repeated the performance.

Mr Callaghan is an old hand at political manoeuvre, not to say intrigue, employing his eyes, words or marked fist as occasion may suggest. The ruse has worked, and Mr Steel is even dreaming of office in a future coalition which he, the David of our day, has called into being, naming Goliath, moderating if not seducing the Labour Party, abashing the Tories.

It is a pipedream. Not that the ambition need be dismissed as unworthy, since Mr Steel professes no affinity with the Tories: it is merely unrealistic. Mr Steel evidently sees himself as the architect of a new form of social democracy and confidant in its implementation. He bankers after something in the nature of a condominium rule.

He is, I fear, too innocent to be exposed to the wiles of Mr Callaghan. He is the Boy Scout of contemporary politics. No good will come to the Liberal Party from this strange essay in incompatibility, this unnatural alliance of conflicting

principles. In the Liberal tradition—the true Liberal ethic—there is much to admire, and it enjoys wide respect. But tradition should be served and perpetuated by propping up a government which in all propriety should have resigned in the spring, a government committed to many practices directly opposed to the essence of liberalism and to the spirit which has guided the conduct of the Liberal Party in the past.

It is a pity, therefore, that the Liberals would gain in public esteem by a return to independence. By abandoning Labour they could probably reduce their negative losses at the next election and renew their appeal to that central body of moderate opinion whose support is vital to their survival as a parliamentary party. I do recognise, however, that it may now be too late for repentance to have any great electoral effect.

Mr Cyril Smith understands the dangers. He does not delude himself. He knows that the Liberals will not be able to deflect Labour from its set

purposes, among them the introduction—given the opportunity—of a further programme of nationalisation. He knows, too, that the Liberals will pay a heavy price at the polls for Mr Steel's determination to uphold Mr Callaghan at Mrs Thatcher's expense.

Mr Freddie Laker's achievement in breaking the monopoly power of the huge airlines and forcing them to emulate his own low fares policy is a superb example of private enterprise applied to the public interest. But we should never forget that over the years, and under successive governments, Tory and Labour alike, he has experienced more obstruction than assistance from officialdom.

Mr Dell, the Secretary of State for Trade, at least had the grace to send him a message of good wishes before the Skytrain's inaugural flight across the Atlantic. If the Conservatives are not asleep, what is wrong with them? Why was there no message from the Shadow Cabinet, protesting its attachment to the principles which Mr Laker has put into

practice with such resounding effect? One might have expected the gesture to occur to Mr John Nott, Mr Dell's Opposition counterpart.

These reflections lead me to the subject of railway fares, which are to be raised yet again. I wonder if Mr Peter Parker and his Railways Board might not be better to cut them—and cut them handsomely—for an experimental period, perhaps a year.

A controlled experiment, not necessarily universal in application, could hardly prove fatal to railway finances, already rocky, and if it failed to produce an adequate increase in traffic and revenue, could at once be abandoned. Who can feel sure of the outcome? The innovation might actually succeed. Why not attempt something radical, Mr Parker, instead of surrendering to the old conformist policies of your predecessors?

Many people, of whom I am one, think of trains as the most agreeable form of transport. We would use them even more if we could afford the fares.

With that, I turn to another (and often related) aspect of domestic expenditure. The Government is taking credit for the lowering of mortgage rates—one proof or illustration, so ministers maintain, of an improving economy.

But vast numbers of railway passengers are commuters buying their houses on mortgage. What they may gain on the building society swings they are liable to lose on the railway roundabouts. I cannot see cause for complacency, much less for self-congratulation, over the outlook now facing this under-served section of the community.

In their attitudes and attitudes Mr Callaghan and his ministers seem far removed from the hardships of everyday life. They are insulated by all the valuable perquisites of office, little touched by inflation, instead of posturing as the heralds of a new dawn they should recognize themselves with homeward reality. To believe the Government, we are all in danger—or will be tomorrow. Will the truth fulfil the promise, or appearance?

The day they made words speak louder than action in the cinema

The crowds queuing outside the Warner Theatre on Broadway 50 years ago on Thursday knew they were in for some excitement. The fact that *The Jazz Singer* was going to be the first full-length film with sound—coming from the characters up there on the screen—had been trumpeted for weeks. But none of those who queued on October 6, 1927 realized they were probably getting tickets for the preview of a revolution.

By the time Al Jolson had sung his last chorus of *My Mammy* and the words "The End" had flashed on the screen, the future of the film industry had changed irrevocably. The fact that it did was due largely to two people—Jolson himself and Sam Warner, eldest of the Warner Brothers.

Warner was a fairly small studio, barely able to eke out an existence in competition with much bigger concerns. Jolson, a Jewish cantor, was contentedly making a fortune from silent pictures that literally went around the world, and they saw no reason to change.

There had been talk of making sound pictures for years. In 1913, Edison had experimented with synchronizing discs with vision but failed to get it to work properly. Eight years later a scientist named Lee de Forest perfected a means of recording voices on the same film that showed the movies, but no-one took any interest. He produced something like 2,000 "shorts" to show what could be done and the idea was laughed out of the studio boardrooms. "Something for the kids at the fun-fair," was how one mogul put it as he let himself a big cigar and approved another year's (silent) film production.

Warner Brothers, on the other hand, were desperate for a last-minute attempt to save off bankruptcy. They joined forces with the Vitaphone organisation and took over the Vitaphone process of synchronizing discs with film.

In 1926 they released *Dunk* with an orchestra of actors. To believe the Government, we are all in danger—or will be tomorrow. Will the truth fulfil the promise, or appearance?

At the same time, they started releasing a series of "shorts" with Jolson. One starred Al Jolson, then Broadway's top cantor, who played a Jewish cantor, who played a Jewish cantor, who played a Jewish cantor.

Another called *Talking to Mother*—featuring a Broadway actor named George Jessel, who was smoking in a huge film called *The Jazz Singer*, the story of a Jewish cantor, who played a Jewish cantor.

When Warner Brothers decided to hedge no further bets and put their whole shirt on a full-length film "with sound sequences", they chose *The Jazz Singer*, which they had bought a few months earlier. Jessel was approached but demanded too much money to be considered. He believed that without that much financial security, it was not worth risk.

So his whole career, Eddie Cantor took a similar view. Al Jolson accepted only on condition he was given a hefty slice of the profits, then virtually unknown in Hollywood.

As I said, it was going to be a silent film with just "sound sequences" and Jolson was the actor. But the studio learnt very quickly that Jolson's script, and expect that to be the end of the matter.

Instead of just going from one scene to another in a nightclub scene, Jolson gave his own particular brand of impromptu, off-the-cuff, head-leader, "Wait a minute, wait a minute. You ain't heard nothin' yet. Wait a minute, I tell you. You wanna hear *Toot, Toot, Tootsie*. Three choruses. You gonna play *Toot, Toot, Tootsie*. You understand, and in the third chorus I whistle. Now give it to 'em hard and heavy. Go right ahead."

Well, of course, no script writer could have put those words into Jolson's mouth. But the film and Jolson were in motion and the sentences were preserved for posterity.

San Warner heard it all and decided to leave the scene in the finished film. In fact, he

liked it so much that he included another scene of a dialogue. As a result of that accident, alone, the talking film was taken out of the fair ground.

The day after *The Jazz Singer*'s premiere, Sam Warner was dead—and so was the silent film. A heart attack had killed the studio head and his bright idea had killed the staple product of his industry.

Within hours, telegrams were sent from New York to Hollywood, ordering silent films to be scrapped and competitive studios to be "wired for sound". It also created problems no one had considered.

Suddenly had taken for granted distribution rights in almost every country of the world suddenly realized that their product was marketable only in the places where people understood English. Mary Pickford was to say ruefully many years later: "It created a tower of Babel—and made me a stranger in lands where I had been at home."

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Why there should be no such thing as a 'safe' seat for MPs

This week has seen Mr Nicholas Scott, the Conservative MP for Kensington and Chelsea, and Mrs Maureen Colquhoun, the Labour MP for Northampton North, both facing votes of no confidence from their constituents.

Next week the Labour Party conference will discuss a proposal that constituency Labour parties should have a compulsory re-election process for parliamentary candidates before each general election.

It is commonly supposed that this reform in Labour Party rules is an attempt by the left wing to oust moderate MPs in order to replace them by extremists. This is a quite false assumption, even if some left-wing dominated constituency Labour parties may see it as an opportunity to do this.

There is a very strong argument in favour of compulsory re-election, especially where a sitting MP is involved. The argument applies both to Conservative and Labour parties, although the procedures would have to differ. I am strongly in favour of the change.

Since October, 1974 four Labour MPs have had votes of no confidence in them passed by the general management committees of their constituency parties. Of these two, Mr Frank Tomney and Sir Arthur Irvine are 59 and 68 respectively in each case.

Mr Tomney, who will be 70 in 1978, is somewhat old to be chosen again as Labour candidate for a general election, which may not take place until 1979, for a Parliament which may last for five years. Sir Arthur Irvine has encountered the same reaction in his constituency of Edge Hill, Liverpool.

Whatever the rights and wrongs may be, it is not difficult to understand why Mrs Colquhoun has antagonized some Labour supporters in Northampton North, or why Mr Reg Prentice has been criticized by some Labour supporters in Newham North East.

Mr Neville Sandelson the Labour MP for Hayes and Harlington, and Mr Nicholas Scott have both successfully fended off local attacks upon them but only, one feels, at the price of damaging splits.

Today the leaders of both the Labour and Conservative parties are elected annually. The absence of any rule requiring Mr Heath to stand for re-election, after the October, 1974 general election, created a crisis in the Conservative Party and the result of a rift between Mr Heath and Mrs Thatcher has yet to be fully healed. Those Conservative MPs who campaigned for a new election for a new leader were, at the time, accused of disloyalty. This is why the Conservative Party accepted Lord Home's amend-

ment to the rules, which apply to the election of a leader, which involves annual election. If party leaders have to be elected annually, is there any reason why MPs should not have to face re-election for each Parliament?

In the Labour Party, the present rules provide that in order to get rid of a sitting MP and to choose a new candidate for the next general election, a vote of no confidence in the MP has to be passed by the general management committee of the local Labour Party. If the motion is carried, the matter is referred to the Party's National Executive Committee, and that body has to authorize the local Labour Party to choose a new candidate. Inevitably bitter acrimony follows.

A process of compulsory re-election in the Labour Party would operate in the following way. In advance of a general election, wards, branches and constituencies would be invited to nominate potential candidates. If the Member of Parliament were universally popular, there might be no other nominations. Other candidates, however, might be nominated in addition to the MP. If the process were automatic there would be no bad blood, the MP might win or be defeated, according to his local standing.

It must follow that a weapon that the left can use against the right can also be used by the right against the left. If this process encouraged more people from the right, centre and left to join Labour constituency parties, so much the better.

In the Conservative Party, a standing selection committee is now part of the model rules. It should, of course, be representative of the constituency association. Nomination by wards, branches or affiliated bodies does not happen in the Conservative Party. The standing selection committee should feel perfectly free to put forward names, in addition to that of the sitting MP. If this were to be the rule rather than the exception, the unpleasantness which emerged, in public, in the Chelsea Conservative Association during the past few weeks would have been avoided.

In the case of North Hammersmith and Edge Hill, most (perhaps all) of those who voted for Tomney and Sir Arthur Irvine, nearly 30 years ago, are probably dead or no longer active. Their decision, at that time, should not bind their successors for ever. The selection process, if such parties should be broadened to require the approval or rejection of candidates by all paid-up party members, who would thus automatically become the final court of appeal for the MP, is clearly undesirable. In 1977, however, no MP is entitled to regard his seat as a *Person's Freehold*.

Humphry Berkeley

Wrapping the mountains in red tape

It might not seem important to anyone perched on a precipice wondering where to move next, but an uncharacteristic storm has broken out among the administrators of mountaineering in Britain.

The British Mountaineering Council (BMC), the governing body of the sport, has "reconstituted" its adjunct the Mountain Leadership Training Board (MLTB) because the council feels the board has become undemocratic and was attempting to dominate policy. Under its chairman, Sir Jack Longland, the educationist, broadcaster, and mountaineer, the training board has refused to be reconstituted and has declared that the BMC is using bullying Big Brother tactics.

The BMC is threatening sanctions by diverting training grants made by the Sports Council away from the BMC. Meanwhile the BMC is attempting to set up another training board which it says will be democratic and will have representatives from 45 organizations which use mountains. Far from clearing the air, the recent exchanges have driven both sides deeper into dispute.

The nub of the problem is that some influential climbers have come to feel that their sport, which is essentially unstructured by rules, and which allows its participants to risk their necks in an unregulated way, is being stifled by bureaucracy. This has happened, they believe, because mountaineering has become a tool in the workshop of education authorities, organizations which improve character and the promoters of wholesale adventure for youth.

Several spectacular accidents had shown it was essential for any leader taking parties of youngsters into mountain terrain to be properly qualified and to this end the MLTB introduced a basic certificate. Some 4,000 of these have been awarded, but the BMC considered the name of the award, the Mountain Leadership Certificate, gave an inflated idea of its value. Far from being an all-round mountain guide, an MLC holder was unqualified to take out parties in severe winter conditions or on rock. It was virtually limited to summer hill walking expeditions. There are higher qualifications which mountain leaders may acquire, but these are not under dispute.

After the Hunt Report on the future of the mountain leadership work was undertaken by a group of mountain leaders, both bodies agreed to a logbook system for candidates but could not agree on a name. The BMC preferred "The Mountain Leadership Training Scheme", clearly underlining the basic nature of the qualification. The MLTB would not accept this and what began as a semantic argument developed into the present overheated row opening up the question of who actually controls mountain training.

Mr John Disley, vice-chairman of the Sports Council and member of the MLTB since it was formed, said the certification scheme had very little to do with the BMC. "It is not of direct interest to it. Club mountaineers have hardly any concern for questions of certification. They are not in the mainstream of mountaineering and ordinary climbers do not care a damn about them. The scheme satisfied the users, the organizations who provide courses. They are not in the sport assume them for any BMC takeover," he said.

Sir Jack Longland added that the MLTB would continue to work on as a board because they had support from all 12 bodies represented on it except the BMC. "The crunch will come if we go to the Sports Council and ask to be granted direct support and not through the BMC. The board has been bullied enough," he said.

The Sports Council grant, sent to the headquarters in Manchester shared by both organizations, amounts to £27,000. What proportion is allocated to which body would be hotly contested. Separating the two would be complicated by the fact that the BMC holds the copyright to MLTB publications.



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Mr Robert Pettigrew, BMC president, declared that training was a basic responsibility of the council which the MLTB had carried out on its behalf. "The core of the matter is control of policy and making the board far more democratic. The board has had the same chairman for 15 years and has become a self-perpetuating oligarchy. It cannot pretend to be democratic."

The BMC's version of the training board meets for the first time in Manchester on November 2. It will be controlled by a lay committee of elected members drawn from organizations throughout

Britain. It would have the final say on the form and shape of mountain training. "The implications of certification run against the whole ethos of mountaineering. A bureaucratic approach puts off young people from taking up climbing in their own time and the certificate too easily becomes a job ticket, or a talisman against accidents. We feel it induces a tramping attendance mentality," Mr Pettigrew said.

He recalled the bizarre case of Don Whillans, among the foremost mountaineers in Britain, who was asked to certify before being allowed to use a city centre climbing wall. To a climber perched on a precipice, certificates would not be an issue, Mr Pettigrew reflected, until there was some official at the bottom demanding one.

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Who will save one of France's most famous monuments?

In its thousand years of history, the Mont Saint Michel, one of the most famous landmarks in France, and a remarkable specimen of medieval military and monastic architecture, has survived many perils. Storms, fires, sieges, revolution, desecration, and vandalism; it has withstood them all. It continues to rise proudly above the Bay of the Coussement, at the boundary between Normandy and Brittany, a rocky mound guarded by a cordon of fortifications, capped by the soaring spire of the abbey church. But for how long? This unique edifice, shrine, fortress, and prison in turn, is threatened by a far more deadly enemy than those it has overcome in the past. If nothing is done to undo the

devastating works of man in the past century, the sea will no longer surge about it at high tide, and it will become landlocked in a sea of marshes and meadows.

Madame Giscard d'Estaing, who has just visited the Mount, on a tour of Normandy, can be relied on to impress upon her husband the urgency of the threat. The President, who has already proved a determined champion of the preservation of the environment of the capital by thwarting the efforts of architects and developers to ruin some of its historic sites, is due to preside at a ministerial meeting to discuss plans to save the Mount. The ground has already been broken by M. Michel d'Ornano, the Minister

of Culture. A week ago, at the Central Hydraulic Laboratory of Maison-Alfort, just outside Paris, he inspected the large-scale model of the Bay of the Mont St. Michel on which engineers have been working for the past four years, and examined the proposals which they have worked out to solve the problem of its silting up.

One and a half million cubic metres of sand and mud are deposited in the Bay by the exceptionally big tides for which it is famous, and raise its level by three millimetres each year. This has been going on for thousands of years; but the geological phenomenon has been greatly accelerated in the past century by the construction of a pier linking the

Mount with the land, the canalization of the three rivers which run into the Bay, and the building of dykes.

Before, large-scale reclamation work was undertaken by a group of mountain leaders, both bodies agreed to a logbook system for candidates but could not agree on a name. The BMC preferred "The Mountain Leadership Training Scheme", clearly underlining the basic nature of the qualification. The MLTB would not accept this and what began as a semantic argument developed into the present overheated row opening up the question of who actually controls mountain training.

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

Credit cards have become such an ingrained part of consumer life in the United States that a self-help society along the lines of Alcoholics Anonymous has sprung up for those who have become addicted to their use.

Not that there is much danger of that happening over here while some retailers continue to adopt such an antediluvian attitude to credit cards. Worst offenders must be petrol stations—rather surprisingly when they make up around a fifth of all transactions—who for some inexplicable reason insist that customers add their car registration number to the card voucher they sign.

Explanations by individual managers for this irksome inconvenience range from the sublime—"it helps to prevent fraud"—to the ridiculous—"you may have just stolen the car".

None of this, of course, makes one iota of difference to the reimbursement of the garage proprietor; and the galling feature is that neither Access nor Barclaycard require this as part of the transaction. When you can buy electrical goods, clothes and so on without this sort of rigmarole, it is pointless for petrol stations to insist on it, particularly when the average value of a credit card transaction in the garage forecourt is as low as £6 or £7.

The high street banks themselves cannot altogether escape censure when even relatively small cash withdrawals, say £10.05, on a credit card are referred to head office for clearance, adding to the time involved in the transaction.

The essence, surely, of a credit card—and something the companies stress in their publicity—is that it is the equivalent of cash. If Access and Barclaycard really want to displace cash and cheques, it is time they laid down the law with recalcitrant retailers.

Round-up

Gilt fund • Income bond • Mergers • Commodity trust

A couple of weeks ago I reported, in the Grouse column, the overall ability of the unit trust industry to market unit trusts speculating in gilt-edged securities because of the effective double taxation penalty incurred by unitholders. I mentioned that there was an exception and that was the Target Gilt Fund.

Last December Target Trust Managers took the considered view that despite the tax penalty, which could be reduced by investing in low-yielding stocks, the time was right to invest in gilt-edged securities for capital growth and launched a unit trust with this aim—rather than that of maximum income—in mind. Time, at least as far as the last nine months is concerned, has proved Target's philosophy.

At the latest count its Gilt Fund, under the investment management of King & Shaxson, a discount house which has been successfully specializing in private portfolio management of gilts for several years, has outperformed the leading bond funds which are invested in gilts. In the last nine months it has risen by 37 per cent compared with rises in the region of 26-28 per cent in the specialist unit-linked funds invested in gilts.

A new five-year income bond is being offered by Liberty Life which yields 8 per cent free of basic rate tax. Liberty Life is one of the smaller companies which ran into trouble a few years ago mainly because of a deposit with the failed British Bank of Israel. That problem was resolved, however, by the support of a leading British institution—which now holds 51 per cent of the equity. Liberty secured a five-year deposit with local authorities before the fall in interest rates which is enabling it to offer the new five-year bond. Of each £1,000 invested, a proportion buys an annuity paying £80 for the next five years while the remainder buys a single premium endowment policy to replace the original capital at maturity. However, as a non-qualifying policy no tax relief is available on the investment and the "gain" is subject to both higher rate taxes and the investment income surcharge.

The gross return to basic rate taxpayers is 12.12 per cent gross and for higher rate payers the gross equivalent yield will be higher. For example, a person in the 60 per cent tax bracket will have an

overall net return of 6.3 per cent grossing up to 15.75 per cent.

★ ★ ★

Chieftain Trust Managers, one of the newer unit trust groups, is busy expanding its repertoire. This weekend it adds to the list of funds with the new Chieftain Basic Resources Trust. Unlike many rival commodity funds Chieftain is not giving itself the soft option of being a commodity and general fund but will remain concentrated exclusively in commodity shares.

The range is, after all, wide. At the moment the managers intend making their biggest holdings in the tea and tin sectors and oil shares.

★ ★ ★

More mergers are being proposed by Seve and Prosper which plans further rationalization by merging two modest sized Ebor funds—Ebor Property Share, Building and Ebor Financial—with the much larger S & P Financial Securities Fund. The move is designed to achieve economies of scale, but whatever the managers might say about it being difficult to maintain an adequate investment spread for Ebor Property, I think it is a pity that this well-identified and successful fund should disappear.

★ ★ ★

Still on the subject of interest rates, United Dominions Trust has announced its new rates for deposits for different classes of deposits and term shares. Term savings accounts subject to 12 months' notice at 8 per cent; deposits at six months' notice will be paid 8 per cent; three months' notice secures an interest of 7 per cent; and one month 6 per cent. The minimum amount is £500 and the maximum is £1,500 and interest is paid gross at half yearly intervals.

Alternatively, there is the "average rate" scheme for deposits between £1,000 and £100,000 which can be withdrawn at seven days' notice. The rate payable is guaranteed at 1 per cent above the average of dealing rates for seven-day funds in the local authority market during the preceding week. This week the rate works out at 6½ per cent.

MS

Consumer credit

A licence for banks and HP firms

Today marks an important stage in the implementation of the Consumer Credit Act as the main licensing requirements come into force. These requirements are one of the principal ways in which the Act was designed to secure protection for consumers who obtain credit.

From today anyone who operates what the Consumer Credit Act calls a consumer credit business—banks, hire purchase companies, second mortgage companies—needs to be licensed. The Director General of Fair Trading can refuse to grant a licence to anyone he considers is not a fit person to have one. The advantage, from the consumer's point of view, is that if he makes a credit agreement, for example, a cash loan agreement, a second mortgage, a credit sale or hire purchase deal, either he or the business run by a trader or company considered by the director general to be fit to run such a business or he makes it with an unlicensed business.

In the latter case the agreement is not enforceable against the consumer. This would mean that the consumer could not be sued for failing to make repayments under the agreement but his own rights under the agreement would remain intact. He would, under a hire purchase agreement for example, still be able to make a claim if the goods were not of merchantable quality.

In other words, the consumer's own rights would be preserved while his liabilities would disappear.

There are three cautionary

points to be made about that rosy picture. First, the director general can make an order in the case of a business indulging in unfair methods or malpractices or where the trader had known that he ought to be licensed and yet had made no application.

The director general would be unlikely to grant such an order in the case of a business indulging in unfair methods or malpractices or where the trader had known that he ought to be licensed and yet had made no application.

Secondly, certain credit agreements will not be affected by whether or not a licence had been obtained. The principal ones are: where credit in excess of £5,000 is provided and where credit is provided by a local authority or public utility such as the British Gas Corporation. Other exemptions include a mortgage by a building society, insurance company or friendly society, a cash loan providing cheap credit (at a rate of charge not exceeding 13 per cent true annual rate) and a credit sale agreement involving no more than four repayments.

Finally, ordinary trade credit where the account is to be settled in full, is exempt. So your newsagent and milkman do not need licences for providing credit for unpaid newspaper and milk bills.

Even with this list of exceptions, the vast majority of ordinary consumer credit agreements are protected by the need for the credit grantor to be licensed. Hire-purchase agreements, overdrafts, personal loans, budget accounts, second mortgage advances from finance



"How many times, Norman... no need for the foot in the door now that you are a fully paid up, bona fide credit trader licensed by the OFT."

houses and trading cheque and credit card agreements should be offered by a licensed trader. The third cautionary point is that the business needing to be licensed is the business which provides the credit. In the case of a bank loan that is obviously the bank. In the case, say, of a hire-purchase agreement, where a finance company provides the credit to the customer, it is the finance company which needs to be licensed as a consumer credit business not the dealer (often a car dealer) who put the customer in touch with the finance company.

It is certainly common for a dealer to hold a number of blank hire-purchase proposals from a particular finance company. If the customer asks the dealer for credit, he will very likely be asked to complete one of these proposals from the dealer's showroom. The dealer will then send the form off to the finance company but he is still not providing credit to the customer. Rather, he is introducing the customer to the source of credit.

The dealer is not running a

consumer credit business but is, instead, a credit broker—someone who introduces a customer desiring credit to a business which provides it. There is as yet no need for credit brokers to be licensed. However, there is provision for it in the Consumer Credit Act and it seems likely that this will be brought into force some time next year.

Consumer credit businesses are not the only ones which need to be licensed by October 1. Consumer businesses are similarly affected. The main types of agreement involved are television rentals and car rentals where the rental agreement is capable of lasting over three months. If the rental firm is not licensed, it will be unable to sue the hirer for any rental due under an agreement made at a time when the firm was unlicensed—unless the director general grants the firm an order excusing its failure to be licensed.

The licensing system should be an effective method of consumer protection. Not only can the director general refuse to grant a licence to someone who

is not a fit person, he can withdraw or suspend one already granted if malpractices subsequently come to light. These would obviously include fraud and such details as failing to honour legal obligations, engaging in illegal doorstep canvassing, putting out misleading advertisements and engaging in any business practice which is "deceitful or oppressive, or otherwise unfair or improper (whether lawful or not)".

At the moment, no doubt, the Office of Fair Trading is busy processing the many applications that come in before today's deadline. In the case of an application submitted before today and not yet processed, the credit trader can continue to operate as if he were licensed unless and until his application is rejected.

After the Office of Fair Trading has survived the initial birth pangs of the Act and when the licensing system has settled down, it should prove to be a powerful force providing protection for credit consumers.

Paul Dobson

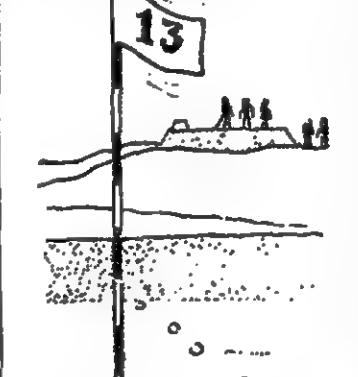
Insurance

Rain or shine, some policies to come to the aid of the party

The success of so many events at a local level during jubilee year may have given those with organising ability the idea of having more of them in future—whether to raise funds or just for enjoyment. But whatever the "jolly" the right kind of insurance can be useful. So it can be helpful to know the types of cover which are on the market.

The best known form of insurance for outdoor events is "pluvius" insurance—which provides cover against rain. The Eagle Star is the specialist company in this area. The most simple type of policy is one which pays a set amount if the rainfall in the area exceeds a pre-agreed amount during certain times. There are, however, other more complicated ways in which the cover can be arranged.

No doubt to try to balance its books—so that it will win whatever the weather does—the



Holden

Eagle Star has been trying to write more business to provide cover in the event of insufficient rainfall. For instance, it has a policy for fishermen taking their holidays in Scotland—for whom a lack of rain can mean the water is too low.

The cost of pluvius insurance depends, naturally, on the amount of rainfall needed for a claim to be paid, and the period of cover. The part of the country (the eastern half of the country tends to be drier even if Manchester isn't the wettest place in England) and the time of year influences the premium level.

Long-term statistics show that, on average, some months are much wetter than others; but the weather most definitely does not conform to an established pattern each year.

Fund-raising activities often involve giving away a substantial prize if a particular feat is achieved. Those who do not want to have to meet the cost of the prize if a contestant is successful can insure against the possibility of a prize being awarded. The ultimate prize details must be provided.

Sometimes an inquiry about insurance can be helpful—even if the insurers refuse to give cover. For instance, a school, to raise funds, had decided to try to hold a golf tournament in one year. The distance was 150 yards. Anyone holding in one would receive one of the cheaper models of car. The school could meet that prize if the insurer who was approached with this proposition refused to cover. A competition could attract professional golfers, and that a good golfer would stand a good chance of holding in one in the course of, say, 100 shots—which would cost him only £10. A



number of professional golfers might have the same idea, and the school, which had not appreciated how easily the prize might be won, called off that particular event.

There are plenty of other ways in which losses could be sustained and where it might be possible to obtain insurance protection. One of the most important aspects for the organizer of any event is to make sure that there is adequate liability insurance cover for personal injury or damage to property.

In some cases, it may be possible to extend an existing policy held by an organization. Often, however, a separate policy may have to be arranged. It is unwise to regard this as an item of expenditure which can be cut out when the whole level of cost is being considered. It is necessary, but it is a good idea to have a few people should be successful.

John Drummond

Motor insurance

When a driver can withhold information and not be penalized

When is a lie not a lie? Students learn that insurance is based on "utmost good faith" and insurers come down heavily on policyholders who do not give them all the material information which they need to calculate a premium. There is, however, one area where a policyholder can tell what amounts to a lie in a proposal form—and get away with it.

Normally, deliberate inaccuracy in a proposal form results in the policy being voided—if, for instance, a young driver should make out that he or she is older than he is, so as to pay a lower premium. There are so many ways in which policyholders can cheat insurers that the latter are usually tough when they catch up with an offender.

Insurers ask in their proposal forms for details about past accidents and motoring convictions. Normally, any deliberate concealment could void the policy. But in England, Scotland and Wales (but not in Northern Ireland), the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 means that anyone convicted of a criminal offence (who received a sentence of not more than two and a half years or an absolute discharge or a conviction after a specified period. After that time, it does not have to be mentioned—even to insurers.

In the case of a fine (or a community service order), the rehabilitation period is five years. For an absolute discharge it is six months. After those periods, the conviction is "spent" and an insurer does not have to be told about it.

Naturally, anybody taking advantage of the law in this way must be very careful to be sure that a particular conviction

really has been spent. To disregard a conviction which has not been spent according to the law, clearly, could result in the policy being voided.

I gather that if the information about a conviction is withheld before the conviction has been spent, but the insurer does not become aware of the fact until after the appropriate rehabilitation period, the insurer would still have the right to regard the policy as voidable.

In many cases, if one has been with the same insurer for years, that insurer will have known about a conviction at the time and will have a right of it on the file after, technically, the conviction has been spent. Is that conviction still to be held against one in those circumstances?

Here, to comply with the spirit of the Act, an insurer will have to pretend to be unaware of the conviction and to quote the same terms and conditions as if one had not been convicted.

Of course, it is not only past convictions in which insurers are interested but also past accidents. Here, too, the law gives some help to policyholders.

Obviously, accidents which have not resulted in any conviction must still be disclosed in the normal way. Where, however, an accident gave rise to a conviction, once that conviction is treated as having been spent, it seems as though the accident constitutes a "circumstance ancillary to the conviction" and thus there would be no need to give information about the accident or the conviction.

Taxation

Interest on loans when a house is thrown in

In 1974 the rules for allowing tax relief on the payment of loan interest were dramatically restricted and as a result the cost of borrowing for many homeowners was significantly increased. On loans taken out after March 26, 1974, relief is given on interest only if the purpose of the loan is to buy or improve the individual's main residence (be it land, caravan or house boat).

There is no relief for interest paid on a second home—subject to an exception for occupation by a dependent relative, or a former or separated spouse. But even if the interest does qualify for relief there is a limit, the measure being interest on a maximum loan of £25,000—a limit that the Government has not seen fit to increase for inflation.

The upshot is that if two houses are owned any interest paid on the one which is not the main residence attracts no tax relief at all. Similarly, if the premises are the main residence and in addition another home is purchased again there is no tax relief for the interest. The rub is that the interest on the second home is not to be treated as interest on the main residence—it is matter of fact.

This imposes a particular hardship on those who live in a second home and who have the main residence in the United Kingdom. The hardship has been acknowledged in this year's Finance Act (Section 36) for the occupying accommodation which is provided by reason of their employment. From April 1977 there is "job-related accommodation", as the Act calls it, can claim relief for interest paid on another home provided that a number of conditions are satisfied.

One essential requirement is that the individual must live in the job-related accommodation at the time the interest is paid on the second home. Another is that the house must be used as the individual's residence—no other words he must occupy it from time to time. There must be regularity—either at the time the interest is paid or within 12 months of the loan being raised. If it isn't there is an alternative that the interest will be tax deductible if it is intended that the house will be used as the individual's main residence.

The term "job-related" defined. Accommodation is job-related if it is provided for the employee's employment; and it is necessary for the proper performance of the duties of the employment. The employee should reside in accommodation, for example, a lighthouse keeper, or if accommodation is provided for the better performance of duties of the employment, it is one of the kinds of employment in the case which it is customary for employers to provide accommodation for employees, such as clerical staff, or because of a special threat to the employee's security, special security arrangements are made for the employee with certain ministers of the Crown for instance.

Readers of my article on living accommodation last month will note a familiarity at the definition and except to it recited above. The reason for this is that the section 36 (2)-(5) describes "job-related" as very much the same as those exempt employees from tax on living accommodation provided by their employers.

It follows, therefore, that the employee is taxable on value of living accommodation under section 33 of Finance Act, 1977 the latter relief provisions outlined in detail do not, alas, apply that person.

JD

Vera Di Palo

THE LAW LAND COMPANY, LIMITED

INTERIM REPORT

Unaudited results for the half-year to 30th June, 1977

	Half-year to 30.6.77	Half-year to 30.6.76	Year to 31.12.76
Gross rents	2,451,530	2,434,365	4,448,917
Trading profits	1,079,264	28,289	373,215
Profit before taxation	358,279	463,954	674,791
Profit after taxation, minority interests and preference dividends	169,039	217,896	331,965
Transfer from capital reserve relating to development	200,000	61,000	81,000
Amount attributable to ordinary shares	369,039	278,896	412,965
Ordinary dividends			
Interim payable 14th November, 1977	0.30p	1.00p	1.00p
Final			1.31p
Total cost on 32,258,833 (1976-34,893,819) shares	176,294	346,929	803,837
Undistributed revenue	864,201	994,285	671,436
Basic earnings per ordinary share	1.05p	0.83p	1.21p
Profit before taxation has been arrived at after charging interest as follows:—			
Gross interest charges	1,338,615	1,942,072	2,782,312
Charged to developments	102,135	1,037,299	1,321,099
Charged to revenue account	21,486,459	2907,473	51,050,712

Progress continues to be made with letters but in view of the fact that the first half-year's trading profits are not expected to be repeated in the second half-year the directors have thought it prudent to reduce the interim dividend. The amount of the first dividend will be considered in the light of the full year's results and the prospects for 1978. Present estimates of the results for the year 1977, after charging substantially the value of the interest payable to the revenue account, would justify the recommendation of a final dividend of not less than 0.50p making a total of at least 1.00p compared with 2.31p for 1976.

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, London WC2E 7EP.

Pensions

A variety of rules for calculating sick pay schemes

Anyone who is permanently unable to work because of illness will eventually draw a pension from his employer's pension scheme—if he has one—whether or not he receives long-term sick pay.

The most important difference in principle between sick pay and pension is that the latter comes under Inland Revenue control. This means that there are limitations on the amount of benefit which may be paid.

In the case of sick pay there is no such limitation; but as we have seen in this series, after an initial period there is normally an upper limit of about 75 per cent of earnings before illness before National Insurance benefit.

For people retiring prematurely in ill health, a pension scheme is permitted to pay a pension based on the original expected length of service. Irrespective of the shortness of the actual service completed, this means that most people who entered their employer's service more than 10 years before the normal retiring age may be given two thirds of pay before they tell sick.

In many schemes follow the same principle on early retirement for health reasons as on retirement at the normal age. The pension

is not the maximum permitted, but is one sixth (or whatever fraction the scheme uses) for each year of service. Service in this case would be counted right up to the normal retiring date.

Some schemes have more complicated rules. Some give only half credit for service after actual retirement up to the normal retiring age; in this case there may be a minimum of, say, 10 years to count.

Schemes big enough to adopt this line are very much a minority, but they cover a lot of people. Smaller schemes normally either rely on a sick pay scheme or pay very much less than the normal pension at the normal retiring date, when sick pay runs out. The pension at the normal retiring date is then calculated on a basis similar to that of the pension of an employee retiring normally.

There is a divergence of practice over the length of service to count: an increasing number of schemes count only service up to normal retiring date, whereas others count only actual service up to the date the employee stopped working.

The usual practice is for the employer to insure against the risk of having to pay out long-term sick pay. At the same time he may insure for the

amount of pension scheme contributions for the employee concerned. This enables the scheme to pay the full pension, based on service up to normal retiring age.

Even in this case, however, the employee is let out by having his pension calculated on earnings just before he fell ill. A scheme may make an allowance for inflation, but even if it does it will probably be a fixed rate of 3 or 5 per cent per annum and will still not make up in full for changes in the value of money. It is only a minority of schemes which include any allowance at all.

Whichever approach a scheme adopts, it will probably apply only to people retiring on health grounds. In the case of a sick pay scheme this must be so. People retire prematurely, however, for reasons other than ill-health.

I have mentioned the problem of those who retire because they can no longer cope adequately with the demands of their job, especially in the face of changing conditions. Others become redundant after mergers or a contraction in the workforce of their employer.

Such situations present more problems in many ways than

with employees who fall ill. It is not at all easy to know where to draw the line between retirement—which implies the end of the useful working lifetime—and a change of employment. It would obviously be inappropriate to pay a pension starting at once to a young man who expects to find another job.

Because of this difficulty, there is much more flexibility in dealing with redundancy. You are not likely to find any special benefits promised in the rules, beyond what has already been paid for when service comes to an end, and the descriptive booklet may well scarcely refer to the problem.

In the event, however, the treatment of older people in particular is often more generous than what is formally promised. As far as the Inland Revenue is concerned, an immediate pension may be paid to anyone becoming redundant after (normally) age 50.

The maximum amount must be based on service actually completed, and not, as for anyone who falls ill on service up to the normal retirement date.

This enables the employer to offer an incentive to older

employees to accept redundancy terms voluntarily. Particularly where a takeover is in question, it is likely to be very important to retain the young will of employees of the firm taken over. Very often promises are made about the treatment of the staff during takeover negotiations.

For younger employees, benefits must be those appropriate to voluntary resignation. I shall deal with this subject more fully later in this series. It is worthy of note in relation to redundancy, however, that the maximum benefits on leaving service generally are based on service to the date of leaving and not the normal maximum on retirement.

In the case of older people the pension may be paid at this level from the date the employee becomes redundant, but for younger people, it must start at the normal retirement date. As we have seen already, however, few schemes provide the maximum pension on leaving service.

There is, therefore, scope for an increase in the level of benefit paid to redundant employees if the employer wishes. Besides the maximum level of benefit under the pension scheme, it is also possible

to make a tax-free lump payment on termination of service. The amount depends on the length of service.

Many pension schemes provide lump sums on retirement in any case. Anyone qualifying for a pension starting immediately will also be entitled to the corresponding lump sum, but this may reduce scope for tax-free money outside the pension scheme.

All these problems have to be sorted out at the time there will normally be there laid down in the pension scheme apart from the rights for anyone in service. If your employer seems likely to go out of business, do not count on treatment on the lines I set out above. If all money and someone has found to foot the bill.

If no one will pay proved benefits, you have no more than your strict entitlement under the act. If the scheme is of the "cash in" type, you will find your benefits back below even that level.

Eric B

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

F Chemicals mishaps mean sharp about turn

It was little wonder that the shares in Federated Chemical Holdings retreated 3p to 59p yesterday even though they had been a listless ahead of the interim bulletin for the six months to June 30.

The remarkable boom that began last year not long after the merger between Gref Chemicals and Chemical Securities has not lasted long. The fault was not with sales by volume or value in the six months to June 30; one way and another margins shrivelled.

Sales rose from £20.1m to £27.1m but after a jump in interest payable from £191,000 to £305,000 pre-tax profits fell from £1.69m to £1.32m.

Unhappily tax actually rose, so the drop in profits after tax was a sharp one, from £948,000 to £559,000. Earnings a share collapsed from 6.27p to 3.62p. The United Kingdom did better, but slump hurt the Canadian subsidiary.

Losses came to £57,000, and stock write downs reflecting weak chemical prices were £150,000.

BP AQUASEAL
Berry Wiggins and BP Oil say that BP Oil is to buy Berry Wiggins' half of BP Aquaseal.

WATNORGS
Board proposes a one-for-three scrip issue and has also borrowed £1.7m from bankers to finance growth.

Fraser Ansbacher can see the way ahead

By Victor Felstead

The worst could be behind Fraser Ansbacher, the merchant and investment banking and property concern. It made a pre-tax loss of £1.52m in the 11 months to March 31, against losses of £406,000 in the preceding 13 months. But at yesterday's annual meeting, Sir Samuel Goldman, chairman, said that the group was pulling out of property and the outlook was brighter than for some time.

Last year was difficult. But, but chairman explained, Fraser's problems stemmed from "past decisions and investments", particularly in property, which turned out unprofitable. In bringing these activities to an end and liquidating unprofitable investments, losses have inevitably been suffered.

In addition, large provisions against probable future losses have had to be made. This was to bring the valuation of Fraser's remaining assets to realistic levels and to reduce to a minimum the risk that further provisions might become necessary.

This policy of disengagement and liquidation has been pursued over the past year and into the new one, "with great vigour and resolution".

The property loans of Henry Ansbacher, on which interest is being suspended, which stood at £1.2m in August are now less than £1m.

The major remaining loan is secured on one housebuilding site which is under offer. When



Sir Samuel Goldman, chairman.

the sale is completed, the group will have eliminated these losses completely.

Talks are also on for the sale of the house-building and marina subsidiary of Robert Fraser and Partners. The group is also talking about selling the larger of the two remaining properties in Paris.

Sales of United Kingdom properties of R. Fraser Securities at the end of March at prices no lower than current book value have been completed, or made subject to contract, for a total of over £500,000.

So the group is well on the way to cutting out unsuccessful activities and concentrating its main attention on the traditional banking business of Henry Ansbacher.

Gough Bros hit by post Christmas doldrums

By Michael Clark

The results of Gough Brothers, the independent wine merchant, show a fall in profits of 8.7 per cent. Dull sales after Christmas and the duty increases imposed on January 1 last took the blame.

Turnover for the six months to July 30 rose from £5.6m to £6.2m but pre-tax profits fell from £77,000 to £70,000.

The second quarter produced much better sales figures so the half year had a 10.4 per cent growth in turnover. This has been maintained. But pressure on margins stopped Gough from a higher net profit.

The directors have declared an unchanged interim dividend of 1.48p gross.

Gough Brothers reported a rise in pre-tax profits of 27 per cent to £205,000 for the year to January 29 last. This was accompanied by a rise in turnover from £11.0m to £13.2m. A larger share of the market and further administration economies led to a recovery in the second half which resulted in a full year's profit after the first half downturn.

However, since the beginning of the current year the group has bought six established shops in London which are now trading under the group's name.

New shops have also been selected at Gravesend, Orpington, St Leonards-on-Sea, Seaford and Winchester, all of which will start operating before the end of the year.

Corinthian pay first dividend since 1973 after turnround

Corinthian Holdings whose interests include financial services, merchant banking and the distribution of knitwear, has reported a £278,000 turnround into pre-tax profits of £150,000 for the six months to June 30.

There is an extraordinary credit of £333,000 which is the surplus attributable to Corinthian shareholders from the sale of Miss Erika by Tartan McCaul.

Earnings a share were 1.56p which compare with a loss the previous year of 2.65p. The directors have declared an interim dividend of 0.30p gross, the first payment since 1973.

The board states that the second half has started satisfactorily with the banking division increasing its leading business while maintaining high liquidity. The textile division continues to trade profitably.

The improved activity throughout the group is a reflection of the recent policy of steady expansion from a firm base.

Profits and sales both slide at Sabah

In the half year to June 30 Sabah Timber suffered a drop in pre-tax profits from £4.2m

to £4.1m. This was despite a 12 per cent rise in turnover to £36.3m. Although United Kingdom turnover was higher the increase was mainly due to imported timber prices. Log production at Sabah was also slightly lower than in 1976. The directors have declared an interim dividend of 0.75p gross against 0.68p. Present indications are that results for the second half may not match those for the first half.

Rights from Rugby's Australian unit

Better results and a rights issue are announced by Cickburn Cement, an 85-per cent controlled subsidiary of Rugby Portland Cement. Over the six months to June 30, pre-tax profits rose 13p per cent to £1.1m.

The rights issue is a one-for-two at 65c a share. Rugby is taking up its entitlement in full. Lord Boyd-Carpenter, the Rugby chairman, reminds other United Kingdom shareholders that they need to apply for premium currency.

Jazerite triggers bid for Deundi

Having built up a stake of over one third in Deundi Holdings, a Bangladesh plan-

tion group, Jazerite Holdings, is making a bid of 75p a share for the rest.

Jazerite is a United Kingdom-registered private investment company whose main directors are father and son, Mr. Hermann Robinson and Mr. Richard Robinson.

A director of Deundi, Mr. Peter Robinson, said that the board had no warning of the bid. With Mr. Wabert Mitchell-Innes, chairman, on holiday, the directors had not yet had the chance of making a formal, considered statement saying that it is to say that the bid should be rejected.

Borthwick bid is at 20p for Freshbake

The terms of the offer for Freshbake Foods from the Thomas Borthwick meat-trading group have been fixed at 20p cash a share. This values Freshbake at £2.57m, and has been agreed by the directors. There will be accepting on a total holding of 11.4 per cent. Borthwick already has 58 per cent of Freshbake.

The activities of Freshbake at Singtonbourne and those of Knightbridge Provision at Thameston, which were acquired along with Matthews Holdings in August, are to be brought under one management.

Royco clears decks for growth

The Royco house-building and property group is back in profit after the heavy 1976 write-down which forced it into loss. Turnover slipped from £7.8m to £7.69m in the first half of this year, but the group still managed to make pre-tax profits of £320,000 against £436,000 last time.

Although the interim payment is halved to 0.75p share, this is not as bad as it looks: there was no final for 1976.

A write-down in the cost of land of over £1m last year, plus interest costs written off, pushed Royco from a profit of £1.2m to a loss of £383,000 in the 12 months to December 31. The board now reports that the group is still trading profitably and is benefitting from recent cuts in interest rates.

WESTERN MINING
Arrangement now completed for \$50m also per cent Eurobond issue with a final maturity of 15 years. S. G. Warburg is lead-manager to the issue.

Briefly

WINN INDUSTRIES

Group has acquired Bowers and Jones for £240,000, of which £235,000 is in cash and rest shares. Assets acquired at March 31, £215,000.

BOWATER

Board is discussing possible bid for outstanding 40 per cent of Temasekong subsidiary in Singapore.

BOC INT

One-for-one rights issue to raise £40m accepted on 90.5 per cent.

BROWN BROTHERS

Dana Corporation has bought further 10,000 ordinary shares holding to 31.68m (69 per cent).

WILMOT BREEDEN

Board is buying ACS Engineering for £240,000 subject to adjustment. A subsidiary of Wilmot has acquired for a nominal sum a

half share in ACS Engineering (Sales), the marketing company for certain ACS products.

TURNER AND NEWALL

Offer to buy Sharps Brothers accepted by 86 per cent and extended until further notice.

HUDLAND NEWS ASSOC

Chairman says improvement in profit reported last year been maintained and borrowing reduced. Upward trend in profits will continue in second half, if no unforeseen factors arise.

BRIDON

Deundi Holdings has been bought for total price of £711,000 in shares.

WM MORRISON

Trading margins are being maintained, and the recent reductions in interest rates will be of "considerable benefit". Board sees a successful final result.

EVEN SEEMS MILES

Boys AG has approached Miles Laboratories of United States with an offer of \$40 in cash for each Miles share.—Reuters.

Brooks Watson likely to top 1976's £1.2m

Bigger internal figures are reported by the Dublin-based Brooks Watson Group which has been recovering steadily from the heavy losses of 1974. But margins were a bit lower in the first half of this year. New shops have also been opened up at £569,000 on the back of a 23 per cent rise in sales to £38.55m. However, the tax charge is estimated to have more than doubled, which means that earnings per share are down.

Shareholders collect an unchanged interim dividend. They should be cheered by the news that the board expects 1977's pre-tax profits to top last year's £1.2m. With the review of the trading, comes the news that two subsidiaries are to be sold to group directors.

Burbank, California.—Mr. Robert W. Haack, chairman of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, told the annual meeting that figures for the full year "will be encouraging". Last year the group had a net income of \$38.7m or \$3.10 a share.

The chairman admitted there were problems on the horizon for next year, but they were, he said, "Nothing we don't see as insurmountable". He said that he hopes and expects that sometime in the not too distant future Lockheed's continued progress will lead the banks to waive prohibitions against payment of a dividend.

Lockheed has not paid dividends on common shares for nine years. The chairman said

International

that the group's new \$100m revolving credit still prohibits payment of a dividend. New orders so far this year totalled about \$2 billion. Lockheed's funded backlog now totals around \$4 billion. Finally, prospects for the L-1011 TriStar "give reason for some cautious optimism".—AP-Dow Jones.

Clabecq—no dividend

Brussels.—Forges de Clabecq, the medium-sized Belgian steel concern, had a loss of Belgian Fr429.9m in the year to June 30, despite a 24.6 per cent increase in sales, and an 18.4 per cent production rise.

Clabecq's loss for its last fiscal year compared with a loss of Fr686.4m the year before when sales slumped 51.3 per cent and steel production was down 38.9 per cent.

The group is again omitting a dividend. The last dividend, for the year to June 30, 1975, was Fr250 a share.

Italsider worsening

Rome.—State owned Italsider SpA's deficit will probably worsen this year after stable losses in the last two. Mr. Ambrasio Pardi, chairman, told a Senate economic planning commission. He said that short-term debts will soon reach 1.6 trillion lire, against 1.36 trillion at the end of last year, and interest costs this year "will total 450 billion lire".

The company, which last year produced 10.9m tonnes of steel, urgently needs a new capital injection of around 1.2 trillion lire, he added.

Foreign Exchange

The dollar fell sharply on foreign exchange yesterday in reflection of gloomy production about the United States trade deficit. Sterling climbed 26 points to 174.76, the highest closing level since September 13, 1976.

The Bank of England again acted to slow the pound's advance, dealers said, although the rate was allowed to move up over a quarter of a cent to balance out-falls against Continental currencies and achieve the prime objective of keeping the effective exchange rate index steady. It ended unchanged at 62.3. The Bank was estimated to have bought in excess of \$100m for the reserves.

Forward Levels

New York 1 month 17.25, 3 months 17.50, 6 months 17.75, 9 months 18.00, 12 months 18.25. London 1 month 17.25, 3 months 17.50, 6 months 17.75, 9 months 18.00, 12 months 18.25. Frankfurt 1 month 17.25, 3 months 17.50, 6 months 17.75, 9 months 18.00, 12 months 18.25. Zurich 1 month 17.25, 3 months 17.50, 6 months 17.75, 9 months 18.00, 12 months 18.25.

Gold

Gold fixed at \$1330.10 an ounce pm. 1000-ounce bar, \$1330.10. 100-ounce bar, \$1330.10. 10-ounce bar, \$1330.10. 1-ounce bar, \$1330.10.

Spot Position of Sterling

New York 1 month 17.25, 3 months 17.50, 6 months 17.75, 9 months 18.00, 12 months 18.25. London 1 month 17.25, 3 months 17.50, 6 months 17.75, 9 months 18.00, 12 months 18.25. Frankfurt 1 month 17.25, 3 months 17.50, 6 months 17.75, 9 months 18.00, 12 months 18.25. Zurich 1 month 17.25, 3 months 17.50, 6 months 17.75, 9 months 18.00, 12 months 18.25.

Discount market

Conditions were less difficult yesterday. In fact, there ought to have been only a very slight rise in the rate, however, the Bank of England found itself overdoing the help when, after it had bought only a small amount of US Treasury bills, some six or seven discount houses wanted to borrow at MLR across the weekend. The Bank lent them a large sum.

Then, right at the end of the day, rates fell away to finish over a band of 4 to 5 1/2 per cent after they had held the range of 5 1/2 per cent to 7 1/2 per cent for most of the session.

The adverse factors comprised fairly large Treasury bill take-up, a pretty big outflow of notes into weekend spending circulation, and a heavy gilt-edged settlement, and the very large repayment of MLR borrowings taken the previous day.

The favourable items included above-target bank balances brought over on Thursday and a very substantial excess of Exchequer disbursements over Revenue receipts.

Money Market

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 7 1/2 per cent. Treasury Bills (14 days) 5 1/2 per cent. Treasury Bills (28 days) 5 1/2 per cent. Treasury Bills (91 days) 5 1/2 per cent. Treasury Bills (182 days) 5 1/2 per cent.

1 month 17.25, 3 months 17.50, 6 months 17.75, 9 months 18.00, 12 months 18.25. 1 month 17.25, 3 months 17.50, 6 months 17.75, 9 months 18.00, 12 months 18.25. 1 month 17.25, 3 months 17.50, 6 months 17.75, 9 months 18.00, 12 months 18.25.

Recent Issues

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MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

Spot, 54.05-56.02, Cite Nov, 55.50-56.00, Dec, 54.00-55.00, Jan, 53.50-54.00, Feb, 53.00-53.50, Mar, 52.50-53.00, Apr, 52.00-52.50, May, 51.50-52.00, Jun, 51.00-51.50, Jul, 50.50-51.00, Aug, 50.00-50.50, Sep, 49.50-50.00, Oct, 49.00-49.50, Nov, 48.50-49.00, Dec, 48.00-48.50, Jan, 47.50-48.00, Feb, 47.00-47.50, Mar, 46.50-47.00, Apr, 46.00-46.50, May, 45.50-46.00, Jun, 45.00-45.50, Jul, 44.50-45.00, Aug, 44.00-44.50, Sep, 43.50-44.00, Oct, 43.00-43.50, Nov, 42.50-43.00, Dec, 42.00-42.50, Jan, 41.50-42.00, Feb, 41.00-41.50, Mar, 40.50-41.00, Apr, 40.00-40.50, May, 39.50-40.00, Jun, 39.00-39.50, Jul, 38.50-39.00, Aug, 38.00-38.50, Sep, 37.50-38.00, Oct, 37.00-37.50, Nov, 36.50-37.00, Dec, 36.00-36.50, Jan, 35.50-36.00, Feb, 35.00-35.50, Mar, 34.50-35.00, Apr, 34.00-34.50, May, 33.50-34.00, Jun, 33.00-33.50, Jul, 32.50-33.00, Aug, 32.00-32.50, Sep, 31.50-32.00, Oct, 31.00-31.50, Nov, 30.50-31.00, Dec, 30.00-30.50, Jan, 29.50-30.00, Feb, 29.00-29.50, Mar, 28.50-29.00, Apr, 28.00-28.50, May, 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Mar, -1.50-1.00, Apr, -2.00-1.50, May, -2.50-2.00, Jun, -3.00-2.50, Jul, -3.50-3.00, Aug, -4.00-3.50, Sep, -4.50-4.00, Oct, -5.00-4.50, Nov, -5.50-5.00, Dec, -6.00-5.50, Jan, -6.50-6.00, Feb, -7.00-6.50, Mar, -7.50-7.00, Apr, -8.00-7.50, May, -8.50-8.00, Jun, -9.00-8.50, Jul, -9.50-9.00, Aug, -10.00-9.50, Sep, -10.50-10.00, Oct, -11.00-10.50, Nov, -11.50-11.00, Dec, -12.00-11.50, Jan, -12.50-12.00, Feb, -13.00-12.50, Mar, -13.50-13.00, Apr, -14.00-13.50, May, -14.50-14.00, Jun, -15.00-14.50, Jul, -15.50-15.00, Aug, -16.00-15.50, Sep, -16.50-16.00, Oct, -17.00-16.50, Nov, -17.50-17.00, Dec, -18.00-17.50, Jan, -18.50-18.00, Feb, -19.00-18.50, Mar, -19.50-19.00, Apr, -20.00-19.50, May, -20.50-20.00, Jun, -21.00-20.50, Jul, -21.50-21.00, Aug, -22.00-21.50, Sep, -22.50-22.00, Oct, -23.00-22.50, Nov, -23.50-23.00, Dec, -24.00-23.50, Jan, -24.50-24.00, Feb, -25.00-24.50, Mar, -25.50-25.00, Apr, -26.00-25.50, May, -26.50-26.00, Jun, -27.00-26.50, Jul, -27.50-27.00, Aug, -28.00-27.50, Sep, 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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS				COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN				LOCAL AUTHORITIES				FOREIGN STOCKS				DOLLAR STOCKS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES			
Company	Price	Change	Yield	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Company	Price	Change	Yield
British American	100	0	4.5	Commonwealth	100	0	4.5	London & Westminster	100	0	4.5	Anglo-Siam	100	0	4.5	Bank of England	100	0	4.5	Bank of India	100	0	4.5	Guinness	100	0	4.5
British Overseas	100	0	4.5	Foreign	100	0	4.5	Manchester City	100	0	4.5	Colonial	100	0	4.5	Bank of China	100	0	4.5	Bank of Australasia	100	0	4.5	John Walker	100	0	4.5
British Petroleum	100	0	4.5	India	100	0	4.5	Sheffield City	100	0	4.5	East Africa	100	0	4.5	Bank of Japan	100	0	4.5	Bank of New Zealand	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Airways	100	0	4.5	China	100	0	4.5	Cardiff City	100	0	4.5	South Africa	100	0	4.5	Bank of Korea	100	0	4.5	Bank of South Africa	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Electric	100	0	4.5	Japan	100	0	4.5	Leeds City	100	0	4.5	Latin America	100	0	4.5	Bank of Siam	100	0	4.5	Bank of Argentina	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Gas	100	0	4.5	USA	100	0	4.5	Nottingham City	100	0	4.5	Europe	100	0	4.5	Bank of Persia	100	0	4.5	Bank of Brazil	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Iron	100	0	4.5	Canada	100	0	4.5	Sheffields City	100	0	4.5	Asia	100	0	4.5	Bank of Egypt	100	0	4.5	Bank of Chile	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Motor	100	0	4.5	Australia	100	0	4.5	Sheffields City	100	0	4.5	Oceania	100	0	4.5	Bank of Greece	100	0	4.5	Bank of Peru	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Ship	100	0	4.5	New Zealand	100	0	4.5	Sheffields City	100	0	4.5	South America	100	0	4.5	Bank of Turkey	100	0	4.5	Bank of Colombia	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Steel	100	0	4.5	South Africa	100	0	4.5	Sheffields City	100	0	4.5	Central America	100	0	4.5	Bank of Iran	100	0	4.5	Bank of Venezuela	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Sugar	100	0	4.5	East Africa	100	0	4.5	Sheffields City	100	0	4.5	Caribbean	100	0	4.5	Bank of Iraq	100	0	4.5	Bank of Ecuador	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Tissue	100	0	4.5	Latin America	100	0	4.5	Sheffields City	100	0	4.5	South America	100	0	4.5	Bank of Kuwait	100	0	4.5	Bank of Uruguay	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British United	100	0	4.5	Europe	100	0	4.5	Sheffields City	100	0	4.5	Asia	100	0	4.5	Bank of Oman	100	0	4.5	Bank of Paraguay	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Water	100	0	4.5	Oceania	100	0	4.5	Sheffields City	100	0	4.5	Oceania	100	0	4.5	Bank of Qatar	100	0	4.5	Bank of Bolivia	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Wireless	100	0	4.5	South America	100	0	4.5	Sheffields City	100	0	4.5	Central America	100	0	4.5	Bank of Jordan	100	0	4.5	Bank of Cuba	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Electric	100	0	4.5	Caribbean	100	0	4.5	Sheffields City	100	0	4.5	Caribbean	100	0	4.5	Bank of Lebanon	100	0	4.5	Bank of Argentina	100	0	4.5	James Watson	100	0	4.5
British Gas	100	0	4.5	South America	100	0	4.5	Sheffields City	100	0	4.5	Asia	100	0	4.5	Bank of Saudi Arabia	100	0	4.5	Bank of Chile	100						



